



Noah's story*

Find out how Creative Mentoring helped 18-year-old Noah* to grow his confidence and build a portfolio to support his dream of becoming a tattoo artist.

*Names have been changed to protect the young person's identity.

"I know Noah and Ramona had an amazing time on their Creative Mentoring journey, it's been lovely to see Noah's hard work pay off!"

Supporting Adult

"Noah was determined to harness his craft, he was so full of motivation to create a piece of artwork that was super tricky and absolutely nailed it!"

Ramona*, Creative Mentor

"I've really appreciated the support in building my portfolio. It's starting to look really good."

Noah*, Young Mentee

social justice for young people

through arts, culture and creativity

the **mighty** creatives



background

Noah had just turned 18 years old at the time of referral, having been care experienced since he was 15. He had only recently begun living independently and was seeking employment. He found himself with lots of responsibilities, which was overwhelming for him. It was hoped that Creative Mentoring would allow Noah to have positive creative time and pursue his dream of becoming a tattoo artist.

who was Noah matched with?

We matched Noah with Ramona, a very talented Creative Mentor with a versatile skillset within visual arts. They also had lots of shared interests with Noah – oddly enough Ramona had also wanted to become a tattoo artist when she was younger, which aligned perfectly!

what happened next?

When Ramona and Noah first met, Noah was nervous and had asked a trusted adult to be with him on their first meeting, which was totally understandable when meeting a new person. They had such a great first session where they talked about Noah's aspirations, lived experiences and formed a really good bond!

"I honestly feel like we've known each other for years!"

Noah shared that he hoped to become a tattoo artist and later shared some of his previous work over their WhatsApp group, which Ramona said was amazing to see.

From there, typical sessions would be at their usual cafe spot as Noah felt happy there. Ramona would bring along art materials and ideas of artworks he may be interested in; they would drink coffee, draw together and chat about art and what was happening in Noah's life. They also formed a close bond over their WhatsApp group, with Noah sharing many of his amazing tattoo designs with encouragement from Ramona. They got on so well that the original contract was extended for a period, so that Noah could work on his tattoo portfolio and look for employment opportunities in that area.

"We had a chat about future plans and I expressed how proud I was of you and how much your motivation and self belief has grown over the months." - Ramona

what was a key moment?

There were many outstanding moments both in the original and extended contract, where Noah went above and beyond creating artwork for his portfolio and focusing on finishing pieces when focus was difficult to navigate. There was a time during a session where Noah and Ramona sat for two hours drawing non-stop, as he was determined to improve upon his work. The hard work paid off when Noah approached tattoo studios with his portfolio and had a potential offer of an apprenticeship!

what progress has been made?

Noah's progress shows that he has "started to make progress" in **Communication**, **Teamwork** (improving from a 8/10 – 9/10), **Self-Belief**, **Relationship Building** (improving from a 7/10 – 8/10), **Motivation** (improving from a 7/10 – 9/10), **Participation and Engagement** (improving from 8/10 to 9/10), **Creativity** (improving from a 9/10 – 10/10), **Emotional Wellbeing** (improving from a 8/10 – 9/10) and **Agency** (improving from a 9/10 – 10/10).

As you can see, Noah had consistently high scores in all the skills at the beginning and end of the extension, which shows that he has continued to maintain a very high standard of how he views himself and the work he has put in – a huge achievement.