



Care Leaver - Apprenticeship case study

"Shaun"

Gen2 Teaching Assistant Apprentice

Started with Gen2 in 2019



How did you apply for your apprenticeship?

I started my apprenticeship with Gen2 straight from school. The company who supported my apprenticeship was Educla who work with young people including those in the care sector, so I had been involved with them for a while.

When I was due to leave school Educla told me they were looking for a teaching assistant apprentice. Jude, who runs Educla, asked me if I was interested in applying for the role. She said that as I was a young person leaving care I would be ideal to work with other young people in a similar situation as I had been there myself. I applied for the apprenticeship, was offered the position.

What did your apprenticeship involve?

My teaching assistant apprenticeship was a mixture of taught lessons at Gen2 and work experience at Educla. I also had to complete a portfolio of evidence. At Educla I worked with students aged 5-17 and provided support in the lessons.

I visited Gen2 every other week for my training sessions and the rest of the time I worked with my employer. My training and support sessions with Gen2 were either based in the training centre with face to face lessons or over Microsoft Teams.



Did you receive any additional support?

To be honest I found the apprenticeship quite difficult and I struggled with some of the work like the report writing and reflective statements. Thankfully I was offered one to one support by Gen2. They provided support with English and maths and I did my functional skills level 1 and 2. This support really helped me to complete the academic part of the apprenticeship and meant that I was able to complete my final 'End Point Assessment' and pass my apprenticeship.

"...as I was a young person leaving care I would be ideal to work with other young people in a similar situation"

What happened when you completed your apprenticeship?

I was really happy when I finished my apprenticeship and gained my qualification. My employer was pleased with the work I had done and they offered me a full time staff role as a teaching assistant which was great!

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to move to London. I would like to continue to study and perhaps go to college. I would not have had the confidence to do any of this without doing my apprenticeship. I have gained qualifications and work experience, which I know I can use in my future.

What was the best thing about being an apprentice?

For me I was lucky, I came straight out of school, on to an apprenticeship and then straight into employment. Apprenticeships are a great way to get into a career. As you are paid whilst you are learning it meant that I had my own independence and could buy my own clothes, mobile phone and gym membership.

What advice would you give to someone who is currently in care and thinking of applying?

I would just say go for it! There is support available if you need it and it's a great way to start your career.

A word from the employer

Jude Harrison-Smith, Manager of Educla

"Shaun has been a fantastic apprentice and co-worker. Educla offer a range of services for young people just like Shaun, ranging from transition for those in the care sector to working with young people who are struggling with mainstream school. Being able to offer this apprenticeship to Shaun was great. He was a natural fit and it was wonderful to see how much he had grown and matured. He could help other young people and they could relate to him as he had been in the same situation himself. It has been great to be part of Shaun's transition period from school, apprenticeship and into employment and we wholeheartedly wish him every success in the future."



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