

Case Study:

Aged 15 and approximately a year after his case was opened to social care, John officially came to the attention of the Youth Justice Service, (YJT), for the offence of possession with the intent to supply Class-A drugs. He was associating with high level offenders and was arrested for activity of sufficient concern to warrant referral to the Youth Offending Management Team, (YOMP) as the level of risk posed to the wider community was assessed as high. John¹ began receiving interventions around his offending, substance misuse and concern around potential gang associations.

Due to a combination of factors which included very poor attendance, John did not realise his academic potential at school. Targeted services helped him secure a College place. He struggled to complete the first year but managed to pass his L2 engineering course before being excluded due to his disengagement, arrest for possession with the intent to supply and joy riding that resulted in him running over a teacher.

John became NEET at 17, at 18 he was referred to the serious organised crime (SOC) project, due to the significant risk of involvement in county lines activity. His mentor directed him to attend a work placement induction session with Veolia, as part of our Towards Employment Pilot for which he would receive £20 a day in vouchers.

John not only attended work placements but excelled. Veolia supported him to successfully apply for a 3 year apprenticeship with them, lowering the qualification bar nationally so that he could. We asked John what the placement meant to him.

He says it has given him:

'Belief in the future he wants. A car, a home that is safe for his family'

He also wanted us to stress that if he wasn't doing the placement then

"100% I would be doing bad things, 100%"

In fact, John has referred friends to us with similar histories who he has encouraged to 'do better than they are doing now'. YP at significant risk of failing to achieve economic wellbeing are activity supporting and encourage each other into positive EET activity.

Commissioning Manager Alternative Education and RPA said:

So far we have approximately 30 job outcomes and three apprenticeship starts as well as increased qualifications and work experience. Measurable decrease in risk to wider community as some of those supported and now positively occupied were in top 10 on our gang matrix. Several care leavers supported in to work – albeit temporary with the option to extend.

¹ Not the Young Person's name

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