

**Background**

At 15 year old E lives in Ellesmere Port with his mother and younger brother. In 2013, and concerned over poor school attendance and behavioural issues, E's school contacted the Youth Federation to explore methods of support the Federation could provide. Initially E was extremely withdrawn and reluctant to engage. E felt isolated due to the fact that he didn't get along with his younger brother who also required considerable attention due to him experiencing a disability that required regular care. There were a number of other contributory factors which resulted in the poor lifestyle that E found himself experiencing at home. E became isolated because his bike had fallen into disrepair and would more often than not stay indoors rather than playing outside with friends. Hygiene at home took a turn for the worse which again impacted on E being socially active at school when in the company of his peer group.

**What happened?**

Due to his disability requirements, E's brother received support from a team of social workers who actively supported his lifestyle. Unfortunately as E was not eligible, there was no additional provision that could be allocated to support the family. However, the Youth Federation's NGage Youth Worker was able to link in with the Early Support Access Team (ESAT) achieving the referral E needed. ESAT then built a Team Around the Family (TAF) to establish what family strengths were in place and identify any additional needs that would enhance E's development.

Since E commenced his weekly One to One mentoring sessions with the NGage Youth Worker E has opened up and is comfortable in sharing his feelings and thoughts. E regularly participated with his school work and lived a healthier lifestyle, allowing him to make informed decisions regarding his use of drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. Supported by the Federation's NGage Youth Worker, E regularly attended a weekly Independent Living Course. E is now able to effectively maintain good hygiene, both personal and in the home, cook and manage a budget. All these new found skills are essential requirements that will have a positive impact on his future life.

**Looking Forward**

Since participating with the NGage programme, E is now living a far more stable lifestyle, his confidence, self-esteem and social skills have significantly improved. The support E received from the Youth Federation has now empowered E to continue with his education and has enrolled at college. E also works in catering 1 day a week, which he thoroughly enjoys, using these new skills to cook meals at home for his family. E's attendance at college is excellent, positively impacting on E's ability to make and maintain friendships.

**Family Life – Working Together**

The Youth Federation were donated a bike, which E now uses to commute to a voluntary placement he has started at BASE Motorpark. E's mum now attends parenting classes and has a family support worker available should any future difficulties arise within the family environment. This case study epitomises the strength of partnership working and what meaningful partnerships can accomplish by working together.

