

Thomas – Youth Worker Apprentice

I support a range of young people and adults to engage in activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, fencing and archery. I also support the work young people do in youth clubs and through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The people I work with have a range of abilities and disabilities. My roles as an instructor of some activities and support worker of others are to ensure that participants are aware of how to engage in each activity in a safe but fun way. I work a range of hours including some late nights and weekends. I have also helped to organise group activities, including site visits, assessing costs and risks. I enjoy meeting lots of new and interesting people; I also love doing all the activities and being outside.

After my A' levels I did a lifeguard's course and spent a year working as a lifeguard. I did not want to go on to University but think the qualifications that I have show employers that I am able to learn quickly. I originally saw a youth worker position here after I had completed my GCSE's. I got down to the last five, but unfortunately did not get the job at that time. I think this may have been down to my lack of experience.

Every Friday evening for the past eight years I have worked voluntarily for PHAB (physically handicapped able bodied). I supported a range of people to participate in a range of activities. This experience has proved valuable in demonstrating to employers I have the skills they are looking for.

I am currently studying an NVQ level 2 in customer services and I do spend time at home completing my studies. I am also doing 'introduction to youth work' level 2, as well as my instructor training in canoeing. These additional courses are ones that I asked the council if I could complete during the course of my apprenticeship. This is important for my future career that I get the most out of this opportunity.

Having worked for PHAB for the past eight years and seen the positive work they do I have developed a keen interest in work which supports the disabled. Once I have gained more qualifications and experience I would like to progress into this specialist area and become a youth worker for the disabled.

Integrated Youth Support & Community