

Harrison Oakley

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

BACKGROUND

Struggling with anxiety and social skills, Harrison was referred to the YES Hub by the DWP, who felt that the Hub had the tools to support Harrison's interpersonal skills. From here, Harrison was able to access a range of support from the YES Hub which eventually led to him entering employment.



SUPPORT RECEIVED

When he first attended the YES Hub, Harrison worked with Youth Engagement Worker Shunem to highlight areas which he felt interested in working in, as well as the barriers which prevented him from entering employment.

From here, Harrison was signposted to the Gaming Classes led by Lancashire Adult Learning, where Harrison was able to connect with like-minded participants and overcome personal barriers whilst achieving a Level 1 qualification in games design. Alongside this, Harrison and Shunem worked together to support Harrison's low confidence— even attending counselling sessions with Lancashire Mind to receive targeted support with his anxiety. As the weeks progressed, staff at the Hub noted Harrison's increasing social skills and confidence, which was really highlighted when he attended a Burnley Premier League football match. For someone who once struggled with anxiety, this was a bold and transformative experience.

Thanks to the support and provision Harrison was able to access at the YES Hub, he has now entered employment as a Trainee Infrastructure Engineer at DXC. This role marks a significant achievement for Harrison, showcasing his determination and resilience.

Shunem Shamshad Youth Engagement Worker

"Harrison impressed everyone at the YES Hub with his willingness to step out of his comfort zone. He has also set a great example for other young people who struggle with anxiety that anything is possible if you are willing to take the first step."



Harrison Oakley

"The YES hub is always a really welcoming place and made me feel included, I maybe didn't utilise it as much as I would have liked too. But staff are always so friendly and helpful.

It really helped me get out of the house with activities, and was a much more comfortable and safe setting for DWP appointments.

It is honestly a really good project for a town and region that struggles with youth and unemployment, and even people who face extra difficultys like myself it really made a difference with my interactions with people and the outdoors."

Next Steps

The Yes Hub remains committed to providing ongoing support for Harrison. Whether through advanced training opportunities, continued participation in activities, or personalised mentorship.