



Lauren – age 18

TANNAHILL CENTRE

Now Others Rely on Me

I first got to know the youth workers in primary school, because they came and did fun activities with us. When I was about 12, I got the opportunity to get involved in volunteering at the centre. I worked with a group of other young people and helped to plan and put on lots of different events. Over time, I've got more knowledge and understanding and I've gone from being a participant in the volunteer committee to taking more of a leadership role and helping out the younger ones. I've been able to work for a number of youth awards as a volunteer: Dynamic Youth, Saltire and Volunteer Awards. I also got to take part in a 10-week community development programme - Activate

I wasn't very good at doing things for myself before – I was quite reliant on other people. Now I feel like others can rely on me. Being a volunteer has helped me to make friends I in different age groups. I can talk to people better now - discuss stuff without getting into arguments. At school I wasn't a kid that would shout out answers but now I'm happy to voice my opinion.

Youth workers expect us to step up to our responsibilities as volunteers and to finish things we start. They keep us in line but they are also really caring. I missed my first interview for college and one of the youth workers went with me to the second interview and convinced the lecturer to offer me a place! I'm doing a Nat 5 in Health and Social Care at college now and we're learning about managing studying. I feel confident with that because I've had so much experience of organising and managing projects through my volunteering experience. Later, I want to go to uni and do more community development work.

Youth Scotland supported Tannahill to develop their offer to Young Leaders through their Generation CashBack programme which provides capacity building support to Youth Scotland members.