



## Casey – age 16

### DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL YOUTH WORK

#### A CLEAR WAY FORWARD

I was nearly 14 when I started as an assistant volunteer at the youth centre. I was keen to do that, because I'd enjoyed coming to the Community Centre when I was younger, and I'd seen other young people up ahead of me becoming volunteers. I knew I wanted to get into Community Learning and Development when I was older.

I'm one of sixteen young volunteers in Dundee at the moment. As well as getting involved in running sessions with young people, we can take part in a weekly training programme, designed for us. We've done first aid, heartstart, vaping – and it's a chance to talk about the work we're all doing in different parts of the city. We also get mentoring support from experienced youth workers, and there are opportunities to move into sessional work when we're ready for that. I recently started as a paid sessional worker in an after-school club.

I remember how unsure I was right at the start and how great the youth workers were at giving me reassurance that I was doing OK, and that I should believe in myself. They are also good at feedback when things don't go to plan. They're not critical, but they help us think about what we are learning and how we can improve. They are kind when mistakes happen, and they are always there to help us back up again.

With the support of the youth workers, my confidence has really grown over time. I'll take a lead in running sessions now and I've learned to push myself out of my comfort zone. I feel that I am trusted and I know that I can trust the youth workers too. I've come a long way and I can see a clear way forward.