

Helping Terrance get more out of life

Terrance, aged 16 from Blurton came to England from Zimbabwe in January 2010.

His mum and sister already lived here and he decided to move over because of the lack of educational opportunities in his home country due to the political unrest.

Terrance got in touch with a Connexions Personal Adviser at the centre in Longton, who told him about Stoke Challenge, a programme of support to help improve the life chances of young people not in education, employment or training.

Terrance signed up to the programme with his local provider Stoke City Football Club and started his 10 week programme.

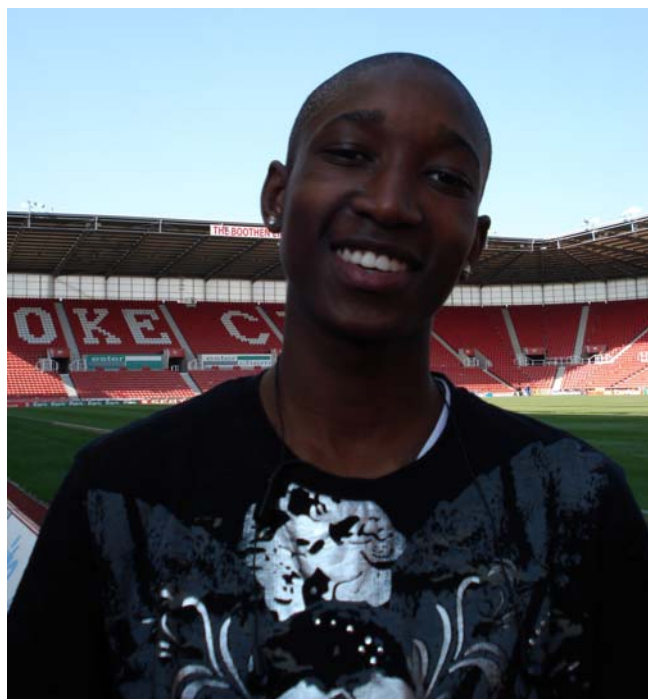
Terrance said: "I was excited about coming to Stoke-on-Trent but also a bit nervous. I didn't know anyone here apart from my sister and mum and didn't know what help was available.

"I wanted to get to college or find a job as soon as possible to keep myself busy. I also had some difficulties with my English and had problems understanding the local accents. Because I was new to the area, I didn't really know anyone and was keen to meet other young people and make friends."

Saranjit, Terrance's Adviser, at Stoke City said, "Terrance is a very capable young man and has a lot of potential. He just needed a little help finding his feet.

"Whilst on the programme, Terrance learned about the different options available to him and what would be best for him.

"He also took part in a range of workshops, where he brushed up on his language skills, and outdoor pursuits, where he built up his confidence and got the chance to meet other young people."



"Our programme takes young people through various activities, including teambuilding, outdoor pursuits, job seeking and self-development workshops, all with the view of helping increase self esteem, confidence, motivation and most importantly resilience."

Terrance completed the programme in March and has secured a place at his local college to study a Health & Social Care course. In the meantime he's attending an additional programme with the Prince's Trust to further improve his language and communication skills in preparation for his course in September. He will also do a two-week work placement in his chosen area of work.

To find out more about Stoke Challenge, call 0808 1000 434 or talk to a Connexions Personal Adviser.

