

Mikey's Story

Mikey's life is back on a firm footing after being referred to the Welsh Government's Families First funded "Teenstart" and the Dads project.

Mikey has had a turbulent childhood and spent some time in a secure unit for teenagers, after being found guilty of numerous anti social behaviour charges. He did not attend mainstream school from the age of about 11, and when he did attend alternative education his attendance was very poor. He left school with no qualifications and has a baby son who is on the child protection register.

Mikey, his partner and young son were in a mother and baby unit in Cardiff to assess if their parenting was good enough. The Dads team worked with Mikey on what is expected from him as a father, looking at the role of a father and the needs of a child on a 1-2-1 basis, because Mikey did not feel confident enough to attend group work. Mikey engaged well with the material, took the information given to him and put it into practice. Following some motivational interviewing, the team identified that Mikey would like to attend a training course but he was low in confidence and self esteem, so they enrolled him on a soccer skills course (funded by Genesis 2), which focussed on boosting confidence through teamwork and problem solving, and it gets the participants to think about further training courses or employment.

Mikey flourished on the course and he grew in confidence every week and by the end of the course he was speaking in front of the group and taking training sessions. Following the course, Mikey's options were discussed and he asked to be supported to go back to employment training.

Mikey and his partner have made huge progress as parents and their son was taken off the child protection register. Mikey has grown in confidence and he has started back on a full time training course with employment training, they are settled in their new home and are making plans for their future. Mikey feels that he is now a good role model for his son and he is working towards employment in the future.