



Activity Agreements Opportunities for All



Integration into a new community

Hassan Nur Hassan is a 17 year old Somali refugee who has used the services of Glasgow's Youth Gateway to integrate into the city. Hassan has developed his confidence, personal and career management skills through involvement with a series of staged interventions, packaged together by his Activity Agreement Coach.

Hassan and his family had been dispersed into Glasgow as part of national Asylum policies in 2010. They did not know anyone outside the Somali diaspora. Hassan spoke very little English and found himself isolated and unsure how to access education/training or social activities.

Given his language barrier, school were unsure how best to support Hassan to access a Senior Phase education. They referred him to the Youth Gateway Partnership where the 16+ Learning Choices team allocated a 16+ Activity Agreement Trusted Professional who introduced Hassan to peer mentors in the Castlemilk area and to specialist bi-lingual support in school and community settings.

The Activity Agreement Coach, Stephen Din met Hassan and in the initial stages of his Activity Agreement used interpreters and a family friend to re-assure Hassan and explain the process in detail. *"We would meet in places where Hassan felt comfortable, such as a local café used by the Somali diaspora"*. During these one-to-one meetings Hassan identified that he would like to attend an ESOL course as part of his Activity Agreement. Stephen supported Hassan to apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance.

Hassan had also expressed an interest in football so Stephen secured him a place on an entry-level Sports Development course with Street League. This benefitted Hassan in a number of ways; keeping him fit, developing skills, widening his social network and crucially giving him qualifications and experience to progress. This helped him to become less isolated and to achieve informal learning qualifications with the assistance of a scribe.

Stephen reflects on the impact that the voluntary nature of Hassan's participation in an Activity Agreement had on his ability to carry out the Trusted Professional role.

"By now our relationship was trusting and respectful to each other and we shared different cultural insights, Hassan would tell me about his country and I would do likewise and give him information on the specifics of Glasgow and beyond. He had by now taught me the basics of his language and how to do basic ordering – Somali style... overall, these exchanges helped Hassan's communication".

After three months on his Activity Agreement Hassan progressed on to further training with Rathbone, further developing his confidence and everyday English language and written skills. The Youth Community Services Agency (Y.C.S.A.) continues to support his tuition. He is now studying ESOL at Anniesland College on a full time course.

Hassan's thirst for learning and self-development are core attributes that will see him achieve his goals. He has come a long way from the chaos of civil war to find peace, stability and hope in Scotland.