



Report Subject: Archway

Title: **Young Volunteer Case Study**



FUNDING BIG IDEAS,
INSPIRING SOCIAL ACTION

Gisele Kapata

Gisele began as a centre member at Archway - a specialist resource centre providing support to young people aged 16-25 in areas such as welfare rights, housing support and counselling – shortly after moving to the UK from Congo in 2011. Gisele moved to the UK with her Aunt and younger siblings, speaking no English, and with no-where to work or live.

Gisele began her life in Leeds living in a homeless hostel, and enrolled on to a college course to learn English. She began participating in a variety of sports sessions at Archway, igniting her love for new sports such as running and cycling (sports she had never participated in before). As Gisele's English improved, so did her confidence and motivation to learn more. On completion of her English course, she began as a Full Time Volunteer with Archway in June 2014.

Gisele began her placement with a weekly timetable of activity. Her main areas of work were supporting

multi-sport activity sessions, including dance, running and cycling. Gisele was particularly keen to get involved with the cycling group as she had only recently learnt to ride a bike, and as a result of the Cycle scheme at Archway, was now able to loan a bike from them to increase her ability to travel to other sessions across the city.

When beginning her placement Gisele had limited office work experience, therefore spent a proportion of her volunteer hours in the office to gain experience with administration procedures. Gisele had no IT experience and had never used a computer before, so time was spent supporting Gisele to develop her IT skills, learning how to use a photocopier and a computer to perform basic tasks. To enhance her learning, Archway also enrolled Gisele onto an evening IT course at a local centre.

As Gisele's English improved, she also began to interpret for other Centre Users.

Throughout her placement Gisele has attended a variety



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Background Facts for Doorstep Sport

of training to expand her knowledge, therefore increasing her education and employment opportunities. Gisele has benefitted from involvement in development opportunities through StreetGames, attending Camp Glasgow - where she supported and interpreted for younger participants from Archway - the three day Volunteer Residential and StreetGames employability training. The main qualifications Gisele has completed throughout her placement are:

- StreetGames Tennis Activator Training
- StreetGames Dodgeball Activator Training
- ICT
- Health Level I Improvement.

Gisele's biggest challenge throughout her placement has been the language barrier. Throughout the placement Gisele's English has continued to improve, along with her confidence and self-worth, '*I was shy and not a good communicator, now my confidence has improved*'.

Gisele really appreciates the support she has received from Archway, and has grabbed the Full Time volunteer

opportunity with both hands. '*The placement has given me the opportunity to go out and meet young people and be a positive mentor in sport. I'm really happy to work with new people from different places, communicating with them. I have improved my English a lot, it's better now through working with young people*'. Gisele, Volunteer.

The future is looking bright for Gisele. Archway has supported her to find housing, and she is now out of sheltered accommodation and living independently in a council flat in Leeds. Gisele travels to sessions across Leeds using her bike or public transport.

Gisele has just secured herself a part-time receptionist job at a hotel in Leeds which she starts on 12th January 2015. Gisele plans to continue to volunteer with Archway, leading a running group and a cycling session, and hopes to gain further sports, dance and fitness qualifications. In September 2015 Gisele plans to go back to college to do A Levels in English, Maths and IT, with a view to going to University to do Sports Coaching in the future.

StreetGames

StreetGames is a national partner of Sport England and a centre of expertise for developing doorstep sport in disadvantaged communities.

The charity supports community based sports projects that deliver sport and volunteering opportunities to young people living in the 20% most deprived wards in the UK.

StreetGames works with National Governing Bodies of Sport to establish and develop links between community and mainstream sport. Recognised by the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Inspire Mark, StreetGames is creating a lasting legacy of doorstep sport in the UK.



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