**Case Study 1**

**Work Experience Report from Heather.**

**Heather is now studying Social Work at University.**

I feel that my placement has enabled me to gain experience within a Social care setting and this has benefitted my University application immensely. I thoroughly enjoy going to my placement as it provides me the opportunity to meet and work with new people, Whilst gaining a wide variety of skills, such as improved communication skills, the ability to lead and contribute to a group, and an increased understanding and knowledge of services available, to children and families.

The support system at my placement has been fabulous and I am looking forward to working with them more over the next term and hopefully continue to volunteer with Sure Start even after leaving sixth-form. The support system within school for work experience, have also been very helpful in organising and carrying out the necessary procedures, in order for me to attend my placement. The progress check-ups are helpful as they allow me to build up a document of the skills and activities which I have undertaken, and these will further benefit my university application.

Deciding to find my placement myself showed initiative and carrying out the necessary interviews and training showed a certain level of maturity. After struggling to find a placement in a social care setting, I showed a sense of resilience, in order to find and secure a placement at sure start. I feel my placement is beneficial but also very enjoyable. I would recommend a placement at a Sure Start Children’s centre to anyone, regardless of whether or not they plan to go into a social care setting after sixth form, it can be a demanding position, however, I feel it is extremely satisfying and rewarding.

Before applying as a Volunteer at Sure Start I had to undertake a CRB check, due to working with children and some vulnerable adults. I then had to undertake basic training before I could go into a position, within a sure start centre. I then had to have an interview to assess my suitability for a role and this enabled me to take up a position within ‘little explorers’- this is a group for babies to pre-walkers where a range of activities are planned and ran each week to encourage the parents to interact with the children through play. Each activity ran is planned to encourage a certain aspect of a child’s development. I have regular progress reports with people within Sure Start and I am aware of further training opportunities available to me. This process is similar to that I will have to go through in my desired career and it was therefore a beneficial experience for me to undergo.