

Appendix B

Brief case studies of some of the individuals whose lives have changed through the support they received from the WL Challenge project (2012/13)

Individual (1) - 33 years old

- Dropped out of University
- Mental ill health for 18 months-2 years and claiming incapacity benefit
- Suffered from racial abuse from neighbours
- Recently split from physically abusive partner

Following support from WL Challenge:

Employed p/t at WL College,

Registered with Open University to resume her degree

Moved home and now feels safer

Increased confidence and self-esteem and plans to train as a teacher

Individual (2) - 18 years old

- NEET – disengaged
- Good GCSE results but dropped out of College
- Family breakdown due to mental ill health of a parent

Following support from WL Challenge:

Employed as a Customer Care and IT Apprenticeship with local employer

Individual (3) - 21 years old

- NEET
- Good GCSE results, good IT skills and keen to get a job or an apprenticeship
- Rare eye condition which causes temp blindness, exacerbated with stress
- Claiming ESA and housing benefit and boyfriend claims carers allowance for this individual

Following support from WL Challenge:

Secured a work experience placement with local employer

Individual (4) - 50 years old

- Moved to the Borough 5 years ago to escape an abusive relationship
- Not worked for 5 years but had a solid employment record prior to this
- Some health issues
- Some financial issues that are under control, however this limits this individuals' ability to lead the lifestyle wanted

Following support from WL Challenge:

Improved confidence and self esteem

CRB clearance

Received 3 interview offers over 2 week period

Was awaiting job start in full time employment

Individual (5)

This individual lost her daughter 9 years ago who died shortly after giving birth to her little girl, she then raised her granddaughter on her own. Feeling under pressure to secure employment, she found herself really struggling with life.

The following comments are extracts from a letter received from Laura regarding the support from WL Challenge project:

"I didn't know what to do or where to turn"

"seriously considering ending my life"

"I owe her [project officer] my life and will never forget her"

Following support from WL Challenge:

This individual received bereavement counselling

With support she organised a local charity event

Working towards an NVQ qualification

Offered a job by a local employer