

Swansea - Looked After Children **Case Studies March 2017**

Looked After Learner 'A'

'A', with two younger siblings, became looked when he was a year 10 learner following the death of his father as his mother was previously deceased. 'A' struggled in school and accessed additional support throughout his year 10 and 11 from: his school's well-being centre; other ways of learning centre (OWL); LAC project worker support and study resources provided by the LAC education team, funded by our LAC/PDG.

'A's attendance improved significantly and he successfully completed year 10 and 11 and achieved a range of GCSEs. On transition from school 'A' was supported to access an apprenticeship, worked with the Princes Trust and won the Princes Trust Welsh Education Achiever Award for 2017. Consequently 'A' has been appointed as an ambassador for the Princes Trust and also returns to his previous school as an excellent role model to motivate others and explain how school helped him achieve. All are very proud of 'A', his achievements in adversity, and for the wonderful young man he has become.

Looked After Learner 'B'

We are extremely proud of 'B' a bilingual learner who became looked after in year 11. Despite significant difficulties B achieved excellent GCSE success and is now completing A levels at school and has secured a university place to achieve her dream of becoming a social worker. If 'B' is not studying or volunteering in the community she pursues her interest in media. 'B' has worked with younger looked after learners in a range of award winning participation activities. This has included a recent short film outlining experiences of being in care and expectations of social workers premiered at Swansea University on world social worker day and used in social worker training. 'B' also worked with other looked after learners to present to our county's education senior leadership team.

Working with looked after learners on 'Reaching Wider' activities, with Swansea University and supported by a LAC project worker, funded from our LAC/PDG, 'B' has made a film to encourage other looked after learners into higher education and has filmed with S4C in Newyddion Naw. B has been interviewed a number of times in the media, most recently on BBC Radio Cymru.

Despite studying for A Levels 'B' continues to be an excellent role model and a well-deserved finalist in the national Saint David's Day Awards of 2017. 'B' is committed to improving experiences and outcomes of young people in the care system and to improve the practice of professionals involved in their lives.