



Irene

'I went into care when I was nine and left my last foster placement when I was 18. I was then put in contact with Action for Children Street Level in Dundee. It was a big challenge moving from care to supported accommodation on my own and learning how to budget and such like. Street Level really helped and have given me a lot of advice. I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't had Street Level. I wouldn't be where I am today. I received help with things like budgeting for shopping, cooking and keeping the house clean. This was really important and I don't know how I would have coped in the flat otherwise. It also helped with sports development, which helped me become fit and healthy.

'I did Action for Children's arts initiative ARTiculation, which really helped to boost my confidence. It has helped me want to do more. I can speak to people more now and ask questions. Through ARTiculation, I've met new people, made friends and gone to places and done things that I'd never done before. I'm a

buddy for others and I go to organisations and tell them what Action for Children and ARTiculation means to us. I've been to London twice, to Stratford and to Birmingham, promoting Action for Children and ARTiculation.

'Action for Children also helped me with getting the right forms for college, where I studied Introduction to Care for two years.

'I now live with my boyfriend in my own flat and I'm going to have my first child soon – I'm really excited. I would also like to go on to work with children with disabilities.

'My case is closed now with Action for Children, but I can go back if I really need help. I think they've done really well for me but I don't think it's fair that support just stops when you hit 21.'

Action for Children Street Level Dundee provides supported lodgings to young people leaving care

as long as it takes