



Katie

'I've been in care since I was 11 when my mother died of a heroin overdose and I didn't have any other family members to care for me. When I was 15, my uncle took me out of care but he couldn't cope with me. I was missing school, smoking and drinking and stuff. When I was 16, I was put in touch with Action for Children Rotherham Bridges. Action for Children was totally different to the foster carers – they were always nice and supportive and always listened to me. Now I'm a different person. I would have done alright without Action for Children but they pointed me in the right direction.

'Ever since I went to Rotherham Bridges, I started thinking about things like college. Before that I had casual jobs in pubs and such like – I've had loads of jobs but none of them were that interesting.

'I started getting qualifications when I was 18. I'm a qualified nail technician and have a degree in beauty therapy. I am now training to be a social worker and started Level 3 this September. I am keen to help other people as when I hear people laughing about someone's awful situation I feel compassion and want to help them get their life back on track.

'I work as a volunteer at Rotherham Bridges as part of my work experience to become a youth worker and also run a mums and babies group.

'I got pregnant when I was 18 and had a daughter, Lucy, who is now three. Rotherham Bridges supported me throughout my pregnancy and helped me sort out my childcare so I could go to college and came to look at the crèche with me. They also paid for the kits for college and for driving lessons and my test, while I saved up to buy a car.

'Rotherham Bridges helped me with housing since I was 16 and arranged permanent housing for me when I was 18. Now I want to be a youth worker so that I can help others who have been through difficult times to get their lives back on track.'

Action for Children Rotherham Bridges provides support to looked-after young people and care leavers

as long as it takes