Craig Turner - Resource Centre Worker, Nidderdale (Harrogate)

***Can you tell us a bit about Nidderdale CRC?***

Based just outside of Harrogate, Nidderdale is a setting to which young people come to have freedom and experiences that they might not be able to access in their day-to-day life. This can range from requesting to have a cheese tasting session, all the way out to kayaking in Yeadon! We try to follow the young people’s interests and plan accordingly depending on age and ability. Nidderdale CRC is split into 3 areas, Nidd House, Beck House and Outreach which all cater for the different needs of the young people that come to visit us, brilliantly managed by the two Deputies, and the Registered Manager.

***What did you think of the application process?***

The application process was detailed, but what I liked about it the most is that it gave the opportunity to ask what interests and hobbies you can bring to the centre. Whilst this is on most application forms, here at Nidd I have been allowed to expand on my ideas with great support from seniors and management. For example, I have started some forest school learning, and have been supplied with the resources I needed. The interview was over teams due to Covid still being about, but the two Deputy Managers and the Registered Manager made me feel very comfortable. Some pre-written questions had been sent to me and allowed for confident and concise answers which also helped to break up any of the awkward thinking time between questions, and having to think up of scenarios from the top of your head. This allowed for better structured answers, and better reflected the practice I could offer to the setting.

***How are you finding the job so far?***

I knew the expected role of the job when I applied (having done voluntary work in similar settings) but this has become a job that I enjoy more than I ever could have expected. It is a very rewarding job, with lots of job satisfaction. Being able to create close bonds and fond memories with some of the young people is what really makes this job special, it makes it unique, and also means that every day is different!

***What kind of young people do you support?***

The young people who come to Nidderdale are between 5 and 18 years old, although some young people may stay until they leave school at 19, they have a varying range of abilities and therefore require individualised care and attention. I have found it really amazing and humbling getting to know the young people and learn how to recognise and understand their ways of communicating so I can support them during their stay and ensure their wishes and feelings are heard and acted upon

***Do you get on the job training and support?***

The on-the-job learning is immense, following an online learning programme with access to all sorts of different training opportunities. Alongside your role you are also able to do some level 3 / 4 / 5 QCF qualifications to help improve your practice even further. Reflection and support are seen as really important at Nidderdale, with seniors and management always encouraging, and supporting you to become the best practitioner that you can be. No problem is too big or too small that they are willing to help with. There has not been a day (in just over a year) that I haven’t come away from work without learning something new.

***Do you enjoy working at Nidderdale CRC? Why?***

I really enjoy working at Nidderdale, there are great learning opportunities, support, training, and fabulous engagement with children and young people. But one of the qualities that stands out is the effort and backing that you get from the team when you want to invest in an idea. Something that I have part-created with the help of peers is the idea of a forest school. This involves using saws, and hammers, drills, the lot! All necessary paperwork was created, risk assessments done, tools bought. In the long term, if it something that is going to benefit the young people, then you will receive all the support that you may need to help fulfil that, where possible. Being able to share some of these experiences, some of which will be first time experiences for yourself is an incredible feeling, and knowing you were the one to help get a young person to do that extra something in their life is something that can be treasured.