## Case Study: Money Works

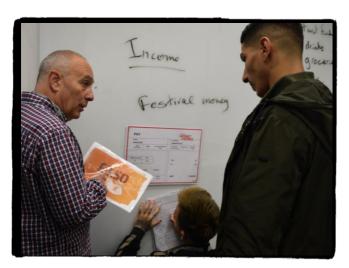
**Bexley Leaving Care, Summer 2017.** 



Almost half of local authorities in England fail to offer care leavers financial education support. Many only receive advice once the situation has reached crisis point. Most will experience problems with rent arrears, live on a low income and look for work with few qualifications and a limited support network.

Money Works is our intervention style survival money management programme that arms young people with the financial skills to live independently. Participants translate what they learn into actions – steps they can take to gain control of their money, and their lives.

#### Tarik, 18



"I'm in college studying Maths and English, and this was something I've never experienced before in my life. In the first day, I learned how to handle my finances.

I really enjoyed this session from the off. I wasn't sure at first but as time went on it just got better and better. It made sense. It mattered.

Paul, the MyBnk trainer, introduced me to things I knew existed, but was clueless as to how they worked, such as banking and savings accounts.

I waste a lot of money. Smoking has always been a bad habit of mine, and now I'm willing to cut down big time to have a little extra cash to save and spend. Never thought I'd say that!

I'm really pleased I came. Maths at college doesn't cover this kind of stuff, how it relates to my life. I now understand what I need and what I don't need. I also used to get frustrated with work, not understanding what certain things meant on a payslip. Paul managed to break it down to me, and now I get it. I would most definitely take part in another session like this.

Money, the MyBnk way, wasn't boring, it was the total opposite."

### **Ling, 18**

"I came to England from Vietnam alone a few years ago after I tragically lost my family and I'm currently in college studying Maths and English.

I had never been shown how to manage my finances, but I've tried to as best as I can. It's been difficult because I'm still improving my English and things work so differently here. Finding out information on bank accounts has been hard as there are so many to choose from and little guidance.



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# What did the Youth Worker think?

"A brilliant workshop to help young people overcome financial challenges. A great and worthwhile resource, important for all young people but especially for Care Leavers. Cannot wait until the next workshop!"

#### Rated:

- Very Valuable.
- Very Effective.

Dawn Mason, Personal Advisor, Leaving Care Team, London Borough of Bexley.

MyBnk have helped me because they have given me the basic tools to be stable. I don't have much, and this was something I desperately needed.

I do have a basic understanding on how to save, which is good, but now I'm fully confident to walk into a bank and find out what's best for me. Most useful thing I learned today was being able to prioritise my money. Discovering my needs and wants, because it will allow me to save more money.

I will always keep this knowledge I've learned with me. It's been a great experience and I will introduce these skills into my everyday life to stay independent.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity and look forward to putting this to good use."

These workshops were kindly supported by Players of the People's Postcode Lottery.