

CASE STUDY | YOUNG PERSON

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Francine,
Pathways to
Independence Young
Person



SEEING THE POTENTIAL WITHIN

A family

This case study provides a brief insight into the journey of a young woman from Burundi and her participation in the Pathways to Independence program. Her identity is protected within the case study using a pseudonym.

Francine left Burundi 17 years ago fleeing war conflict to the Republic of Congo but met further conflict there and was forced to flee again, to the UK in 2002. Her journey was tough and after arriving in the UK she was taken into a foster family. At 16, after leaving foster care Francine was alone and in need of emotional support, direction and guidance. Pathways to Independence (Pathways) started working with Francine and her pathway began.

Francine explains, "Pathways were the first people to really understand and recognise the real me and my ambitions and hopes. They saw me for who I really was. They gave me the basic support of accommodation, access to education, healthcare and legal advice but what they really provided was true emotional support. The best way I can describe Pathways is as a family, a mother - caring and kind, a father - offering

direction and guidance, a brother and sister who I can chat to and share my fears and hopes with. A family."

Clear vision

Pathways worked with Francine to establish a pathway and identify the elements of support she needed as an individual. Using Pathway's own Independent Living Skills Programme Francine was able to create clear vision as to where she wanted to get to and how she would get there.

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Seeing the potential within

Pathways work hard to understand the real person and their motivations, hopes and fears. Through this person-centred approach Pathways can help young people to realise their potential and fully integrate into their UK community. Pathways are fully committed to multi-agency working and believe this to be a critical component in the services they

deliver. Alice Conroy, Founder and Managing Director of Pathways worked with Francine from the start of her journey: "By working with other agencies and organisations we can draw on so much expertise to help support young people. Francine is a great example of what we can achieve working together. I could see her potential and wanted to ensure she was able to make the most of her education."

Working with guidance and support from Pathways and with her own significant drive and resources Francine went on to successfully complete her 'AS' and 'A' Levels and has just completed a degree in humanities at Brighton University. Throughout this time Francine has worked to support herself and also volunteered to provide support back into her community.

Francine is still very much in contact with Pathways and continuing her journey: Francine comments, "Pathways are still there for me even though I finished my pathway with them some time ago. They have helped me find my house, find the right courses for university and so much more. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."