

**Mother Lucy and her daughter Chelsea live in Hartcliffe and have been engaged in several courses with Community Learning over the past academic year.**

**Tell me a little bit about yourself... What do you do? Where you grew up?**

**Lucy:** I'm Lucy. I've been doing these courses for a few years now, done quite a few different ones. I was a waitress, but I'm now a carer for my eleven-year-old daughter. I'm originally from Bedminster; I became a mum and moved up around Withywood. I've been in Hartcliffe for three years. It's quite nice.

**Chelsea:** I'm Chelsea. I've pretty much lived in this area most of my life. I have a little boy, just one [year old]. And this is my first time doing these courses, to get my qualifications that I need really, to get a job, whilst I can.



**Which course/s are you doing at the moment/courses you have done previously?**

**C:** I'm doing English, Maths and Crèche [Intro to Crèche Work].

**L:** I'm just doing Maths at the moment, because I've got a two-year-old and she's just started preschool here [Hartcliffe Nursery School and Children's Centre], so I've had to – because that's in the afternoons – so I have to get someone to watch her in the mornings. It's too long a day for her at school, but I've also done other courses. I've done cooking. I've done First Aid. I've done basket weaving.

**Why did you choose this course/these courses in particular?**

**L:** My eleven-year-old goes to St Peter's [CE Primary School], where I originally heard about the courses. I was doing cooking and I did the willow weaving whilst I was there. And obviously, it's just continued from there really. Got you [Chelsea] doing them as well now haven't I?

**C:** Yeah so I can study whilst, because of the free childcare, I can put them in the crèche and study. That way, I can get up to the level I want to do so I can do what I want to do in future.

**L:** Plus, it gets you out of the house as well doesn't it?

**C:** Yeah it gets you out of the house. Stop looking at the same four walls all day.

**L:** And you meet loads of different people every time you do it, which is really nice. Some of the people from Maths do the English don't they?

**C:** Yeah and the crèche course.

**L:** And there are new people as well.

**C:** Good variety.

**L:** You get to meet different people. If you suffer from a bit of depression and a bit of anxiety and stuff, it's good and kind of helps with that, because obviously you're meeting different people, you're getting out and you're learning at the same time which is great. And it's really benefitted you [Chelsea] hasn't it?

**C:** Yeah, my anxiety levels are high right now *\*laughs\** but I'm good.

**Could you please share/describe your experience with Community Learning so far?**

**L:** Helen's [Development Worker] amazing. I can't fault Helen. Every time there's a new course, she'll let us know.

**C:** She'll just put our names down now.

**L:** All the teachers – I've not come across one...

**C:** They're fantastic.

**L:** Yeah I've done quite a few [courses], like I said, in the past. I mean, Louise who takes cooking, she's really nice. Helen who does Maths, she's really nice. The lady, I can't remember her name, who did the willow weaving, she was lovely.

**C:** They're all amazing, they're great. They sit down with you, get to know you and spend time with you.

**L:** Yeah and if you've got an issue, you can go to them.

**C:** Yeah you can just go to them and ask...

**L:** They're really understanding.

**Can you tell me of any significant changes that have occurred, or anything that you have changed about yourself since you started with Community Learning?**

**L:** Confidence levels.

**C:** Yeah confidence.

**L:** Being able to do a thing like this with you [the interview]. I wouldn't have been able to have done that before.

**C:** Never. In a billion years. *\*Laughs\** I've realised what kind of job I want to get and realised I can achieve [getting] that job. It's put me on the right track of getting to where I want to be.

**L:** When I was working in the café, I did my Food Safety [qualification]. I already had Health & Safety but I did Food Safety through Louise [course tutor]. Obviously, that helped towards being in my workplace at the time. I know it's made my confidence levels a lot...I'm a bit better now when going to groups.

**C:** You can sit down and help Sophie.

**L:** Yeah, I can sit down and help my eleven-year-old [with homework]. Although, I don't need to help her because she's way better than what I am with Maths and stuff. Yeah, my eleven-year-old comes home...

**C:** It's a good feeling. It's a lovely feeling.

**L:** She's had fraction homework, and I can sit there and tell her "this is what you've done wrong" whereas before, I couldn't do that. With the cooking as well - cheap, easy cooking solutions for home. I've made the naan bread at home. It's cheap and easy to make.

**C:** Yeah quick, simple things you can do at home.

**L:** Yeah feed your kids. And then the basket weaving I did, although it was weaving, we actually did loads of other things as well. We made Christmas decorations and stuff like that. It's quite good, because actually you come to realise that it's probably cheaper to make your own stuff.

**C:** You get involved in it as well. Do some [fund] raising and selling.

**L:** Yeah we did the school fayre. We did pizzas and sold them at the fayre and all the money we made went into the school. It's taught me how to budget and profit. Now, because I've got my Food Safety [qualification], the school will always ask me now, because we're doing fund-raising for the year 6 prom which is every year. As the parents, we need to raise money for the DJ and for the buses to go and stuff. We go in and we make cakes in the kitchen and having the Food Safety [qualification] means we can go and we can do that. It does help the school as a whole so that's pretty cool.

### **What is the most important thing you have learnt during your time with Community Learning?**

**L:** To work together.

**C:** Team work.

**L:** Be yourself.

**C:** Self-confidence.

**L:** Because they're [Community Learning team members] so nice as well, it makes it a lot easier to settle in to a group.

**C:** Someone brand new could walk in next week and they'd feel welcome right away. Just by working together, it makes people feel welcome in itself. And that's rewarding to an individual person as well as a group.

**L:** Yeah we all kind of help each other don't we?

**C:** If anyone needs help, or if you've got a problem at home. We understand completely. It's really nice.

### **What is your ultimate life aim/goal?**

**L:** To achieve what you want to achieve.

**C:** Get as far as you can in life. Whatever you want to do that makes you happy.

**L:** To achieve that goal. Be able to do Maths in your head. To be able to write a sentence in English and it be understood.

**Describe Community Learning in one sentence...**

**C:** Oh that's difficult.

**L:** It's good. One sentence for Community Learning [...] it says it in the name 'Community Learning'. It is what it is. You've just got to give it a chance. People find that they do actually like it.

**C:** Yeah take a chance on it.

**L:** Take your chance on it, because it is good.

**C:** Yeah you can't really [describe it]...it's just a great place to be.

**L:** I wouldn't keep coming back if it weren't. It is, everyone is really cheerful. I've done so many courses; I can't fault any of them. And originally, I started bringing you to get you out and get you [Chelsea] socialising.

**C:** And now I do it on my own, which is a massive achievement for me.

**L:** She [Chelsea] wouldn't go anywhere unless someone was with her. You do now; you manage to get here more than me. Describe it one word, 'good'.

**C:** Fantastic.

**L:** Helen [development worker] does put a lot of hard work into it.

**C:** Yeah she does run around every morning like a headless chicken.

**L:** I know there are others that are working hard as well...

**C:** But specifically here...

**L:** Yeah for us, Helen is the main person. You can tell she cares a lot about the outcomes of things.

**C:** ...as well as us. Any problems with us, she will say "Are you okay? Are you sure?" constantly making sure we're okay.

**L:** She does kind of hold it all together. But then the tutors are really good as well.

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