

## Reconnect Community Apprentice

Contributed by Administrator  
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In partnership with Comic Relief , Leeds Community Foundation and Leeds City College and Leeds Adult Social Care CPCE project research, I am pleased to announce that we have now appointed the Reconnect Community Support Apprentice. Lauren Firth is an enthusiastic young individual who will commence her employment with the charity on Monday 4th February 2013.

“Reconnect” is a community Befriending Project which will provide Support, social contact and improve access to activities and services in the local community. The “Reconnect Project funding has been secured by Comic Relief in which our key aim was to give a young person the opportunity to access Health and Social Care . Lauren has been appointed as a Support Worker on a 2 year Apprentice Scheme in partnership with Leeds City College.

The Reconnect Community Project will enable us to provide a dedicated person within the charity, who can provide support and empathy to individuals within their home which will not focus directly on the individual’s personal care need but more on engagement and social contact. Reconnect will open doors to older people, and promote community involvement and increase activity capacity enabling people to have more social contact and networking. Additional to older person self confidence many older people are restricted to reaching out to their community due to their personal care commitment. For example a lady who was every week attending a coffee morning, stop attending because she had to have her ulcerated legs redressed every morning, also she was concerned how other people would react to her physical change in her legs she was frightened what people would say, with the support of the Lauren (Reconnect support worker) we aim to support the older lady and provide a dedicated individual who can assist the elderly lady to take steps forward in participating in new/old activities and service. The assistance of the reconnect support worker beside her until she gained the confidence to meet new and old friends. Additional to providing a person centred support service to older people; the project will create an opportunity for a young person to access a 2 year apprenticeship scheme in partnership with Leeds City College The position will improve the employment and skills of a local young person, by providing the

chance to train, learn and earn in a working environment. Leeds City College (Based in the charities Community Centre) will provide full assistance in delivering a diploma, Functional Skills, NVQ Assessment and portfolio guidance to develop the individual career in community support service.

The project will not just improve the apprenticeship skills and training but improve community Engagement/partnership but build bridges between generation and opportunities within the community and health and social care. It will also give older people a sense of achievement that they are contributing in supporting a young person to develop and have a future.