

Case Studies



Caroline

Caroline is a 37 year old white British woman who lives in Ashton. Married to Mick for 16 years, they have an autistic son, Joshua aged 18 years. Mick is not Josh's father but Josh regards Mick as his Dad.

Born and brought up in Ashton, Caroline is the eldest of four children and after her parents' separated, grew up in a one parent family with her mother and siblings. She has the utmost respect for her mother whom she describes as her role model. She used to see her father as a child but has had no contact with him for 16 years due to a 'falling-out'.

Diagnosed as having learning difficulties as a child, Caroline attended two schools for Children with Special Educational Needs but was badly bullied at her secondary school. This left her with little self-confidence. She feels the education system failed her and she left school unable to read or write. However she has a strong work ethic and has worked for most of her adult life in factories or in cleaning jobs. She is currently an escort for a woman who is physically disabled, taking her to and from a day care Centre.

After two physically abusive relationships (one to Josh's Dad), Caroline met Mick and they were married a year later. After several house moves, they settled in their current home 10 years ago but unfortunately Josh's father moved into the area some years later and began abusing Caroline again. At first it was verbal abuse but then he physically assaulted her in the street and smashed her windows. After this Caroline, in her words, "shut down", blocked everybody out and withdrew into herself.



Holy Trinity Community Centre, Dean Street,
Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7HD

T: 0161 339 0236 E: holytrinityccc@outlook.com
W: www.htccc.org



Case Studies

She became depressed and was on medication. She found it difficult to leave the house and became paranoid not only about Josh's father – leading her to install CCTV cameras, a panic alarm and an intercom system – but about everybody, thinking everybody was looking at her and so could not eat or drink in company.

Around this time, Caroline visited the Community Centre with Mick who is the Centre's cleaner. She found everybody friendly and welcoming and was persuaded to join the knitting group and attended the Celebration Day where she got to know Hasna and Razia – the two Community Outreach Workers. Carl (the Project Manager) then asked Caroline if she would like to be a volunteer at the Centre and gradually she started coming more frequently until she is now at the Centre daily, working her hours around her escort duties. She acts as a receptionist, does photocopying for the paid staff and has put herself in charge of the noticeboard displays. She volunteered to set up the crèche, demonstrating both artistic and creative talents. During the Induction Day for volunteers, Caroline revealed that she could not read or write and Carl has been able to negotiate a reader for her who sees Caroline twice weekly, assuring her that when she has learnt to read, writing will follow easily. Caroline looks forward to the day when she is no longer reliant on audio books.

Caroline has only been coming to the Centre regularly since September but already she can feel her confidence returning and the 'real' Caroline emerging. She now feels happy for the first time in years and feels she has found purpose to her life in “this big happy family.” She hopes to do a computer course through the Centre and build up her office skills, eventually obtaining paid employment at the Centre should a suitable opportunity ever present itself.

Caroline clearly demonstrates that the PPP Project is not exclusive. She lives in the OL6 area, but is white, and was oppressed and needed empowering. This the project is doing for her.



Holy Trinity Community Centre, Dean Street,
Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7HD

T: 0161 339 0236 E: holytrinityccc@outlook.com
W: www.htccc.org

