**Nomination for Movement to Work Youth Employability Awards: Rising Star Award**

**Rising Star Award** – an individual who graduated 12+ months from a Movement to Work placement that has made a real difference within your organisation or gone on to make a positive impact elsewhere

**Nominee’s name**

Gabrielle (Gaby) Day

**Nominee title**

Advanced Engineering Apprentice

**Nominees Email**

gabrielle.day@baesystems.com

**Nomination Category**

Rising Star Award

Gabrielle (Gaby) Day signed up for The Prince’s Trust - Movement to Work (MtW) programme in April 2018 and initially wanted to work in an office during the placement, however the BAE Systems team at Portsmouth persuaded her to do one week in the workshop and then the second week in an office.

After thoroughly enjoying the workshop based placement she changed her mind and stayed in there for the second week.  Gaby completed the programme and was successful for gaining a place on the 2018 Apprenticeship Programme, as a Fabricator.

There have been highs and lows for Gaby over the last few years and she has found it a struggle sometimes, as she has had more challenges, than most apprentices, outside of work.

Whilst undertaking her apprenticeship Gaby had to find childcare and it wasn’t easy finding a childminder that could fit in with the 07:30 starts of the Naval Base, although there was some flexibility.

As well as undertaking her apprenticeship Gaby has a house to run and a son to look after, so finding the time for the academic revision can sometimes be difficult.

Gaby has received positive feedback about her work and the relationships she is building.

Gaby should be very proud of what she has achieved!

**Gaby’s Background:**

Gaby left school at 16 and went to college to undertake her A levels.  During her first year she fell pregnant so changed to Social Care level 3 Extended Diploma and gave birth to her son Eli at the end of the first year.  After Gaby fell pregnant she moved out of the family home and lived with Eli’s father for a while.  Although remained in contact with her Mum, she lost contact with her Grandparents.

Gaby continued on with her second year of college as her son was able to get to get free childcare with the college but during the second year of college her relationship with Eli’s Dad ended.  The relationship that Gaby had with Eli’s dad was a volatile one and he had various assault charges against him as well as criminal damage charges.  While in this relationship Gaby ended up in a hospital on a few occasions from suffering physical and mental abuse from him.  After the relationship broke down Gaby had to take a restraining order out against him and also a non-molestation order, however due to him breaking these orders on numerous occasions he ended up going to prison for a few months.

Social Services had to intervene and was offered various support including domestic abuse and victim support as she would need to go to court and be a witness for these events.

Gaby completed college with a triple distinction start and then went on to Portsmouth University to study Social Care.  Whilst at University Gaby undertook work experience at a drug and alcohol rehab centre and alongside this also volunteered for the Police and Crime Commissioners’ office.

Upon being informed that her ex would be coming out of prison, Gaby had to move into a woman’s refuge in September 2015 to ensure that both her and Eli remained safe and stayed there for 7 months.  After this time Gaby moved into a flat on the Isle of Wight but couldn’t work due to having no family or childcare.  During this time however, Gaby still volunteered for the Police and Crime Commissioners’ office and also for the Family Contact Centre.  While living on her own over on the Isle of Wight Gaby undertook some home learning and gained qualifications in Mental Health Awareness and Additional Needs and a Level 2 in Counselling Skills.

Eli’s Dad didn’t see him until 2017 but had to have supervised contact but by April 2018 he was able to have unsupervised contact.  Gaby also re-built her relationship with her Grandparents around this time and they helped her with looking after Eli.

Gaby eventually moved to Whitely and had further support from her Grandparents.  Eli is now in school and is doing extremely well.

The work that Gaby undertakes for the Police and Crime Commissioners’ office is to raise awareness in those aged between 14-25 about unhealthy relationships, help look for signs that them or others could be in these unhealthy relationships and what can be done and what support is available to get out of those relationships.  Gaby has visited schools, colleges, hostels and even spoken to Politicians to talk to them about what changes are needed in the community and to be that bridge between the Police and the Community.

The work that Gaby has done has seen her and those that she works with at the Police and Crime Commissioners’ office win an award and also be a runner up.