

Case Study

Lori Candela's Progression

Positive Futures – Coaching in America

by Adam Henshaw and Hannah Laws

It all started in January 2014 when Lori Candela signed on to the Positive Futures Apprenticeship. She was working alongside her Positive Futures community sport worker Adam Thurston. When Lori first started her apprenticeship she lacked confidence and felt a bit out of her comfort zone. Lori's first job was to complete registers and contact forms. Lori had to learn how to work views online and when she did this her job was to upload all of the registers and contact forms of new participants onto the website. When Lori first attended the sessions she was a bit nervous but as the weeks went on she became more and more confident and the young people loved her.

The longer she was there; Lori gained more responsibility by leading sessions and in general aspects of the job role. Through this her confidence increased greatly. This showed as Lori started to interact with the parents and enjoyed leading the sessions she had organised. She also felt more confident in organising events. Back in April 2014 at the Fairplay Festival she was the mentor for Gainsborough's girl's football team and this ran very smoothly. In November 2014 Adam left his role with Positive Futures to work for the Lincolnshire FA. Because of this Lori gained even more responsibility as she was running all the sessions in Gainsborough whilst they were looking for a new worker to take over from Adam. Due to Adam leaving this resulted in Lori travelling to North Hykeham Youth centre a few times a week to work with David Sampher, the sports development manager for Positive Future.

In December, Lori and the other apprentices had to organise an event called the Big Challenge. This was based on Christmas themes. The event was a big success and because of this Lori's confidence increased and she met lots of Young people from different areas of Lincolnshire.



In January Steven Snell was appointed to the Gainsborough job. Lori already knew Steven so this wasn't a big problem and it also meant she was able to help him to understand and use views and introduced him to the young people and volunteers at the sessions.

After being asked about his welcome Steven said, **"Lori was one of the main reasons I felt so comfortable in my role when I was appointed in January 2015. As she had been with the project for over 10 months, Lori helped me settle in and also showed me how the Gainsborough sessions and admin ran. We worked really well and bounced a lot of ideas off each other"**. As she was going through her apprenticeship, Lori gained more and more confidence. Her confidence increased that much she felt like she actually knew what she was doing. When asked about her confidence she said, **"I was so nervous when I first started my apprenticeship, I was quiet and I didn't have a clue what I was doing. And I think being given more responsibilities helped me to increase my confidence so much that I ended up feeling like I actually knew what I was doing"**. Because of this, Lori was able to talk to parents, deliver sessions, organise tournaments and events. Other things included taking Young people to games, talking on the phone, attending LCC and WLDC meetings and actually understand what they were talking about and meeting different partners PF worked alongside.



In February, after having a conversation with Jonathan Coles, the most recent Football Development Officer, about wanting to progress in the sports industry, Jonathan told Lori about his time when he worked as a coach over in Massachusetts, America for Global Premier Soccer. This was something that sounded interesting to Lori. So this led Lori to researching about coaching in America and this looked appealing to her, so she applied. There was a quick response asking Lori to attend a training weekend at St Georges Park. As it was such a short process it made Lori feel nervous and unsure whether to go as they wanted her out in America within a month. Also it was a big decision she had to make and one that was completely out of her comfort zone. As she wasn't sure whether to go to America or stay in Gainsborough, she had a chat with Steve Rowe, Steven Snell and Debbie Chambers. They gave her lots of advice. After listening to this advice she decided to go to America and is having the time of her life. **"I'm so happy I listened to them and pursued it as this is a once in a life time opportunity and I'm having the time of my life here"**.



Out in America Lori's job is an office role which is HR communication where she works 9-5 then coaches elite players in the evening. She has professional development every Monday where she and fellow colleagues all get on field for sessions and learn from each other which is really helpful. Asked about her job in America, Lori said, **"It is hard work and I am working long hours although it is amazing and I've really settled in here now"**. Whilst out in America, Lori has completed her level 2 in coaching football award. She was then offered a coaching job at Liverpool FC Academy.

From where and how Lori was at the start of her apprenticeship to where and how she is now out in America is a big change and she has come a long way. Asked about the whole process, Lori said **"This job is so intense although it's honestly the best decision I've ever made and it's all down to Positive Futures getting me where I am today, without being given that Apprenticeship opportunity, I wouldn't be here today"**.

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