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Derby Child Contact Centre,

Ruth’s Place,

100 Canal Street,

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DE1 2RJ.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am coming to the end of my studies at York St John University in which I’m studying Drama: Education & Community. I am planning on applying for an MA in Drama Therapy at the University of Derby in September. I am writing to ask if you have any voluntary work or work experience available at Derby Contact Centre.

My key skills involve Facilitation, Communication, Ability to work with different people and Sensitive and Mature. These skills have been developed through a range of work experiences such as working in Nurseries with children, Primary Schools with young people, and working in a university setting at Converge which is a group taught by students and staff made for local people who use mental health services. I also completed a Mental Health Awareness training course throughout my time at Converge.

During my 2nd year at university I completed a module called Children and Young people in which I had to facilitate a group of students and reflect and create a piece of Theatre in Education theatre surrounding topics such as child sexual exploitation and being safe online. This is where I gained my facilitation skills of trying to run a class of 10/15 children and creating workshops and supporting their learning, and also being sensitive and mature, these topics are very powerful and personal topics for some individuals and could be a very new and eye opening or even triggering and real for some students, so having to be sensitive and mature is an important skill and role to maintain.

Communication and Ability to work with different people I have developed throughout my years in education, work experiences and employment I have had. For example, working with different age ranges and abilities. It is important to adapt to different people and understand individuals needs.

All of these skills are very adaptable across jobs and life, so very important to have.

The National Association of Child Contact Centres aim is ‘to keep in touch with parents following separation, in a safe environment because parenting shouldn’t end when relationships do’. This is an issue close to my heart having been through this at a young age but have a positive relationship with both parents, therefore giving back and being able to support parents and children through unfortunate times like this would be very rewarding, and I am willing to give all it needs to create this welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone involved.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Melhuish.