



Introduction to Working with Young People

A Madcap Graduate Returns

Gawaine's connection with Madcap goes back a long way.

Gawaine

I first started coming here about 14 years ago, something like that, because they used to have a lot of gigs here. And so, you know, when I was sort of roughly the age of the people that are coming here nowadays, I was coming here and getting drunk and getting up to shenanigans, because they had a lot of music, a lot of bands and stuff playing here. So, I've been coming here for a while but, about four years ago, I think Steve started here then, and I come along to a gig and, obviously, ended up chatting to him and he showed me into the studio.

Gawaine's own past may help him relate to the centre's more troubled users.

I was homeless for a while, but I got myself a place, I was living in a hostel for a while, and I sort of have been getting myself sorted out over time. And so I've been trying to move into a career which I'd actually enjoy doing. Because I can't work in an office and I can't work in a factory, because they're not environments I like, I like creating, sort of creative things, and interacting with people and that.

Gawaine was lucky enough to get a Musician's Union New Deal placement at Madcap.

Well, I'm just trying to pass on knowledge, mainly. That's what I mainly do. I want them to be able to do and, you know, anything that I know, I'm more than willing to pass on to them, you know what I mean. So, it's like, I've got a lot of technical knowledge, which I've picked up over time from studying, and if I can condense that and pass it on to someone who can use it in five minutes, then it's worthwhile, it's useful knowledge then. So, that's what I see myself as doing, really, passing on knowledge and enabling people to do what they want to do, you know.

Gawaine's work at Madcap involves close collaboration with Steve.

Steve is more of a musician. He works with a lot of bands and he's been working as a musician for quite a while. So, he's more there, he can direct them from that kind of aspect. So, he can get them to sit down, hum a few words, and then write a tune around it, basically. Work out the chords and then play the melody and arrange it that way. I'm more technical. I can handle the mixing and recording side a bit easier than Steve can, and Steve's obviously more fluent at dealing with the musical aspects of it. So, we've got different strengths, but they work together, kind of thing. So, I think that's how it works, really.

This partnership with Steve has taught Gawaine a lot of new skills.

Dealing with people. Because, I mean, a lot of it is obviously dealing with people, social situations, basically. You've got to try and coax them into giving their best performance, you've got to coax the creativity out of them, know when to go in and tell them to do this, and know when to step back and to give them some space to do what they want to do.