

## Rachel

Dreams of working with children were never pursued by Rachel because she was so convinced that her criminal record would be held against her.

However, when the Sova case officer discovered that Rachel had always wanted to work as a teaching assistant in a school, she decided to see to see if voluntary work might be a way of proving how her client had changed.

Together, they produced a disclosure letter which detailed the circumstances at the time of the offence and the rehabilitation that had taken place.

The case officer then made an approach to Rachel's preferred school to check on their policy around employing volunteers with a criminal record.

The head teacher was open to seeing Rachel to discuss the matter further and when Rachel was asked about her criminal record, she used her letter to disclose her past offending and what she had done to address her behaviour. This way, the CRB check carried out on Rachel when she was invited to volunteer at the school, did not contain any surprises for the head teacher.

Rachel has been volunteering at the school for over a month; she is very happy there and is building up a good relationship with all staff and children. She is due to start an NVQ in supporting teaching in schools which, along with her work experience, will enhance her chances of gaining paid employment within the school.

Rachel has said that her confidence has increased and she cannot believe that she has this opportunity as she previously felt that it was impossible given her record.

*The client's name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.*