

## **Shezza - Stories of welcome and exclusion**

I was expecting people to be friendly because I grew up around people that were friendly. Up north, people are very friendly. In the beginning I found it very difficult. I just found people very ignorant here. Basically when you see people, they are not very engaging. They do not talk to you. It is very hard to converse. I am so used to talking to anybody and everybody. It was like, 'good morning. Hi, how are you?' at the bus stops and things like that. I just found people very ignorant. It was just really bizarre. I used to work at Wellington Street in Leicester, at the benefits office. I got transferred there and I struggled, I really struggled because I just found people weren't your friends. Even though they are colleagues, you did not feel like you were part of that group. I felt really isolated sometimes. It did get better because they got to know me, because they were a bit apprehensive. After they got to know me though, it was really nice.