

Education Case Study

Teenage Secondary School Student

Background

- 15
- Male
- European/Pakeha
- Secondary school student
- Large city

The free text section

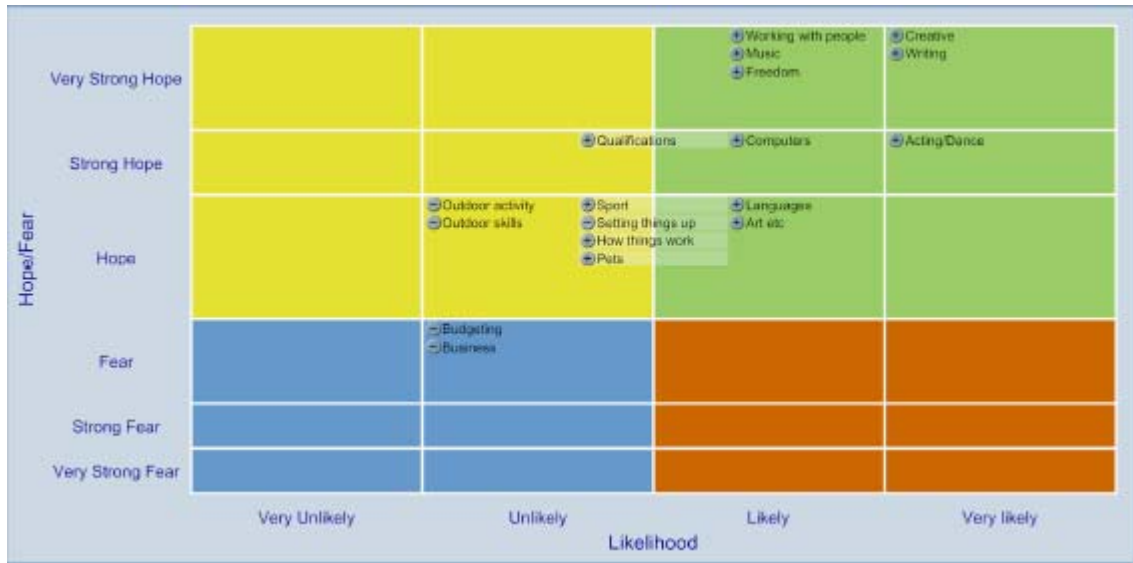
In the free text section of the feedback Mark exhibited hopes about being happy and content, with many friends, travel in the future and the chance to be creative. He was specific about involving film-making in his future. His fears revolved around being disabled or poor, or having a boring job.

The computerised questionnaire

Skills and Interests

The skills and interests section reflected Mark's interest in creative pursuits including writing, acting and music. His interest in computers also featured, as did his desire to work with other people. Languages and art featured as interests which he has some experience of, and he indicated that they could be part of his future.

His fears included business and budgeting activities and he indicated that he has no experience and little interest in these. He seemed to lack confidence in outdoor skills and sport although he expressed interest in this area. Mark wants qualifications but seemed uncertain about gaining these.



Career Options

His career options showed quite a narrow focus on the arts, with a mention of computer work also. He has an interest in the police force but no idea whether this is likely to come to anything. Fears included being unemployed, working in an office, selling or marketing and having to juggle several jobs. He thought these were unlikely to be issues for him.



Personal Attributes/Values

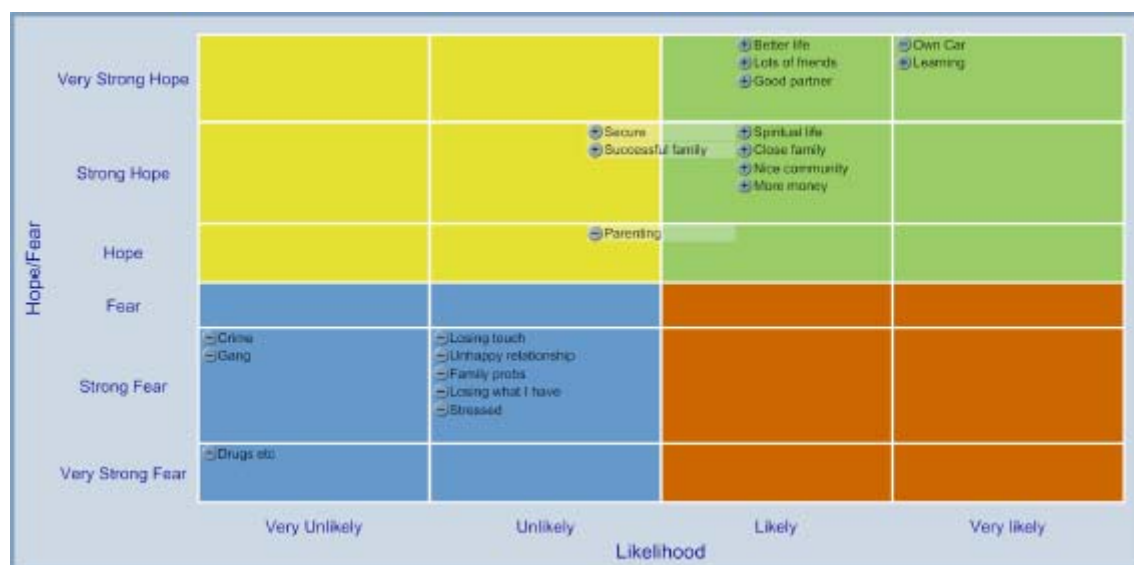
In the personal attributes and values section, Mark's talked about being a leader and thought that this could happen. There are a large number of positive attributes and he has strong hopes for himself.

Mark had a likely fear of being lazy and, almost contradicting this, of being too busy. Failure and lacking confidence are also fears which he was a little cagey about – he said that he “maybe” has experience of these and does not know if they are likely fears. He also wanted to “be the best” but was not confident that this will happen.



Lifestyle

The lifestyle section demonstrated a very optimistic set of responses. Mark wanted a car as all teenage boys do, but he also wanted to keep learning new things, have a good partner, lots of friends and be secure financially and socially. He had no likely fears and saw crime, drugs and misuse of alcohol as far away from his realm of possibility.



Summary and conclusion

Mark felt it was helpful for him to go through FutureSelves for several reasons. Firstly he thought it was a good exercise to have to think about his future and goals, and also to have his strengths in black and white before him. He realised that his career goals were quite narrowly focused and that he needed to be open to more ideas.

Mark enjoyed doing the Strategy Workbook and said it was valuable to write down specific tasks and people he was going to talk to. Having to put down specific dates for achieving these things meant he was more likely to actually do them.

He also said that he was more aware of thinking about direction and kept remembering his feedback in different situations. He started to think about the possibility of turning your interests and maybe even hobbies into a career – making money from something you enjoy!

The interest in sport but lack of confidence in this area was picked up and it was suggested that Mark treat this as recreational rather than competitive. He has since joined a social league basketball team at school and is enjoying this.

Mark also needed to be made aware that qualifications were well within his reach and he should be working towards these with confidence.