

## **Q-Step Placement Host Profile**

**Ruth Townsley,  
Director of Measurement & Policy,  
Happy City Initiative**

Ruth Townsley took two Q-Step students on placement at the Happy City Initiative in Bristol in 2017.



### **Briefly describe the projects that placement students worked on with you.**

Both students worked on data gathering for our 2018 Thriving Places Index, a ground-breaking report on how well areas across England are doing at growing and supporting the conditions for equitable, sustainable wellbeing.

The data gathering entailed finding the most recent data for a set of 62 wellbeing indicators for 150 upper tier local authorities in England. Both students also worked on a user guide to accompany the Index to be used by customers. They were valuable members of a team of 10 people working to deliver this project.

### ***What did the Q-Step students gain?***

- Experience of working in a team, having their own part to play but also the sum being greater than the parts. Also working independently, decision making and communication skills.
- Insight into how local authorities measure and are measured
- Experience of working with a complex Excel spreadsheet where attention to detail was essential.
- Learning around wellbeing theory and practice and how to embed new economic models into mainstream policy settings

### ***What did your organisation gain?***

- Bright, reliable, diligent, creative and hardworking team members who added value to the end result - we credited them both in the final published report.
- The energy and optimism of two young people.

### ***What skills did the Q-Step students bring?***

- Data collection
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- A fresh perspective
- Good communication skills

### ***What challenges, if any, did hosting a student present to you/ your organisation?***

None - we had clear work plans for them and both students fitted in very well.

### ***Will you/your organisation to host more Q-Step students?***

Yes – we took two more in Summer 2018!