

Welcome to the second edition of our now quarterly publication, sharing news about Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme.

One of the benefits of journeying together is that we've been able to quickly develop a profile for the girls and young women we're aiming to support. And it's showing some of them have specific and complex needs. This update includes a focus on how we're equipping our volunteer mentors to support young people facing such challenges.

Our next volunteer recruitment event will be an online gathering on Monday 9th January, 7 – 8pm. Please help us spread the word by sharing the invitation accompanying this update or signposting them to our Eventbrite booking page via the QR code to the right.



Where we are at

- Pleased to have accepted 162 mentees onto the Programme. And already supporting 132 of these young people through a combination of active mentoring relationships and pre-engagement provision.
- So, far we have 33 active volunteers and a further 36 undergoing core training.
- Providers are working together to match young with appropriate mentors in a timely way.

What's next

- Growing our social media presence with help from our expert administrator
- Rolling out our volunteer recruitment plan
- Meeting with our funder's representatives to review findings so far and plan the next stage of our initial two year journey
- Starting to consider longer-term funding options

A Snapshot of our Current Mentees

- All identify as female - 3% are transgender and 1% non-binary.
- Approx 17% are disabled; 7% are known to have special educational needs.
- Across the board, 70% live with their parents and 11% are in foster care or supported housing.
- Most have experienced more than one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Of the ACEs reported, the most common are parental separation (56%), domestic abuse (42%) or witness of domestic abuse (38%), emotional abuse (41%) and mental illness (38%).
- Based on Warwick Edinburgh scores, many of them are considered vulnerable and at a high risk of negative outcomes.
- Their volunteer mentors work hard at relationship building, tapping into their interests, talking to them about their ambitions and expectations, and involving them in activities, such as walks, arts and crafts, and visiting local coffee shops, parks and gardens.
- We're already seeing some positive progress eg spending more time in mentoring sessions, speaking more freely, considering the possibility of re-enrolling in education, and taking part in new activities.

Equipping our Volunteer Mentors

Coordinating the extended training is one of my proudest achievements with GMP. We knew early on that many of the girls and young women we want to support would most likely have needs that require some specialist training. In pulling the programme together, I've been able to draw on the knowledge and expertise of GMP providers and capitalise on our existing links with other county-based organisations. We are extremely grateful to these willing specialists who are kindly giving their time to provide bespoke one-off training sessions.

All sessions are delivered online and take place in the evening. They allow mentors to up-skill, making them better placed to support their mentees, and they provide a forum for invaluable discussion and peer support.



Georgia Seager-Hillier,
The Nelson Trust

What our mentors think about the extended training

“I have found it insightful, relevant and of a high quality, and it has given me a deeper understanding of some of the challenges and how they can be addressed. I have also very much valued the discussions that follow the training, and the different perspectives that are represented.” [Rachael, GMP Volunteer Mentor]

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