

Welcome to our quarterly publication, sharing news about Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme. In this issue, we're looking at where we are at as the Programme nears the end of its initial two year pilot. And we're anticipating the start of our third year of service delivery and the roll-out of our five year development plan.

Where we are at

To date, the Programme has taken on 213 young people assessed as being at risk of finding themselves in the criminal justice system. Most of these young people are still journeying with us, supported by Programme staff and 67 trained volunteers. Demand for our offer is still high and we're looking forward to welcoming around 30 more volunteers over the coming weeks.

Right now, we're also working with our external evaluator to gather and the final pieces of research evidence needed to inform the published report on our first two years of operation. This is due at the end of December and we'll share highlights in our next issue.



GMP Partners at a recent workshop

Year 3 Funding and the Future

Seven partner organisations have been involved in making the Programme the success it is today. It's been a truly collaborative journey during which we've learned from each other and developed the trusting relationships that underpin our operational model.

As we move into our third year of delivery, we we'd like to say a special thank you to the three partners who will be stepping away. It's been a privilege working with them and we'll be holding on to the relationships we've established. The remaining partners will continue to support young people aged 10 to 25 across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. Over the coming months, they'll be settling into revised partnership arrangements and making the most of additional resources from our funder. And they'll be drawing on the wealth of knowledge and experience gained from the two-year pilot to develop and expand our service offer.



Scarlett's Story



It's always good to hear about young people's experiences of the Programme - here's what one of them recently had to say.

"Hi, I'm Scarlett and I have a mentor from Young Gloucestershire as part of the Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme. I'm autistic and have ADHD so I find it hard to understand my emotions and the world is often overwhelming for me. This makes me anxious and I fall out with people quite a lot.

I've been with my mentor for almost a year and it's been good for me. 'Given me someone to talk to - an adult to discuss things with, without there being any pressure.

My mentor is like a good friend. She's very approachable and takes the time to help me understand what's going on without making me feel confused or angry.

Since I started mentoring my confidence has improved. My mum says I'm taking ownership of my actions and I think I am too. I've learned to understand my feelings and emotions better, and I'm getting better at saying sorry too."

Honor, our GMP practitioner at Young Gloucestershire says the Programme has also helped Scarlett to access support from other agencies, including Early Help and through School.

All round, some great outcomes here!

How you can help

We're always on the hunt for new mentors - life experience is all you need; we'll provide training and ongoing support throughout your time with us. If you'd like to find out more or make a referral, please visit our website.

www.gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk

