

What is Mentoring?

Mentoring is a one-to-one, non-judgemental relationship in which an individual voluntarily gives time to support and encourage another. A Mentor champions, supports and motivates their Mentee, facilitates their learning, growth and development and helps them to achieve their potential.

One person helping another...

Working with my YSS volunteer mentor has ...

“Made me look at my future and want to do something with my life”

Adult Offender Project Mentee

What sort of people are YSS Volunteer Mentors?

Volunteer Mentors range in age from 18 to 70+ and possess a wide variety of life experiences and backgrounds.

All volunteers have a valuable contribution to make. It is very important for YSS to have a broad mix of Mentors as individuals will respond to different Mentors.

People who have become Mentors for YSS include students, employed people, former refugees, unemployed people, ex-offenders and retired people. Sometimes people who have worked with a Mentor go on to become Mentors themselves.

A Mentor will be aged 18+ and be available for at least two to three hours per week – this includes meeting their Mentee, travelling time and feedback from their meetings.

What will a YSS Volunteer Mentor do?

- Meet their Mentee on a regular basis to advise and befriend and act as a positive role model
- Motivate their Mentee to make positive choices in their lives
- Help their Mentee access relevant community resources where appropriate
- Give individual support depending on identified need
- Work at all times within YSS operational policies including confidentiality, health and safety and child protection
- Attend case meetings, group training, support and regular supervision where appropriate

Mentors are not expected to have expertise in all the areas where their Mentees may encounter challenges.

YSS Volunteer Mentors must be able to demonstrate...

- Reliability and commitment
- A non-judgemental approach
- Effective communication skills and the ability to relate to a diverse group of people
- Commitment to addressing the needs of the people they will be working with
- Confidence and the ability to deal with challenging situations

What are the benefits of becoming a YSS Volunteer Mentor?

- You'll gain a real sense of worth and meet like-minded, motivated people
- An opportunity to put your experience and life skills to good use
- A chance to explore whether working within this field could be a career choice for you
- A way of increasing your own confidence and self awareness
- Mentoring provides a rewarding and practical use of your time
- The opportunity to make a difference

In return, Mentors can expect YSS to provide...

- Excellent work experience with a dynamic and forward thinking organisation
- High quality comprehensive training
- Regular, ongoing support, supervision & training
- Reimbursement of all expenses

One person helping another...

“My mentor helped me with accommodation and the best thing was being able to talk and know I was being listened to”

Adult Offender Project Mentee

What does the YSS Volunteer Mentor Induction Training Course include?

- An understanding of the role of a Mentor and its boundaries
- An understanding of the particular issues your Mentee may face
- An understanding of risk issues, health and safety and safeguarding
- An understanding of how to motivate people and build effective relationships

One person helping another...

"I enjoyed all the activities with my mentor...golf, quasar and bowling. But I have enjoyed talking to her about things I can't talk to others about"

Children & Young People's Project Mentee

How do I become a Volunteer Mentor with YSS?

- Complete our Application Form
- Attend a meeting for selection for training
- Complete our two day Induction Training Course and attend our Post Training Debrief
- Provide two Referees

All Volunteer Mentor positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

One person helping another...

"The thing I enjoyed most about my meeting my mentor was taking time to look at offending behaviour and the best thing my mentor helped me achieve was self discovery"

Adult Offender Project Mentee

For further information, please contact your nearest Volunteer Co-ordinator:

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One person helping another Volunteer Mentoring with YSS



Any Volunteers?

Your questions answered

Working in partnership with local...

Police
Probation Services
Local Authorities
Jobcentre Plus
Youth Offending Services

