

MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Every week, mentors from across the council family visit their young person - to provide guidance, support, and a listening ear.

Over the past year, the council has been working to establish a network of mentors across Services and ALEOs – and hopes that even more staff will register.

Mentors come from all walks of life and have a wide range of experience to share with their mentees. We spoke to three staff to find out why they got involved and how they find the right balance managing their weekly sessions in school with their work responsibilities.

Raymond Porter, Senior Claims Officer at Financial Services, is a mentor at St. Roch's Secondary, explains why he became a mentor. Raymond said: "I'm very educational minded; I have two children so I understand the support young people need day-to-day. It made perfect sense that the council would support mentoring and now the logistics are a bit easier."

Clare Burke, Senior Information Governance Officer in the Chief Executive's Department, mentors at St. Andrew's Secondary. Speaking about the importance of mentoring Clare said: "I grew up in the east end of Glasgow so I can understand the difficulties some of our young people face. I felt I could relate because of my own family experience and wanted to help steer a young person in a positive direction."

Laura Moran, Transformation Communications and Engagement Officer, Land and Environmental Services, mentors at Whitehill Secondary. Laura said: "Because it's an hour a week plus travel I tend to treat it like everything else in my work week. I prioritise to make sure everything's done."



Two of our MCR mentors: Clare Burke and Raymond Porter.

Clare agrees that disruption to her work week is minimal, explaining: "I've found there's no impact on my workload. My manager and the council is committed to supporting me and helping vulnerable young people in the city."

MANAGERS' SUPPORT

All three agree that manager support is essential and negotiating that can require trial and error,



but it all comes down to flexibility. Raymond added: "I have a flexible working schedule. I give reasonable notice to senior management to make sure my mentoring doesn't clash with anything. I always make sure that mentoring is in my diary so colleagues know where I am."

REWARDING AND WORTHWHILE

Speaking to these mentors, it's clear they find the experience rewarding and enjoy spending time with their young person.

Laura concluded: "I look forward to seeing my young person, finding out how she's getting on. It's rewarding for me, knowing that I'm someone who she can rely on. I hope that one day, in the longer term, she'll look back on this and think that mentoring has helped her."

"I get a sense of satisfaction knowing that I'm doing something that is benefiting my mentee and is also supporting the council's commitment to supporting young people in the city."

INTERESTED IN MENTORING?

Would you like to work with a young person to make a life-changing difference?

Information session

Come along to our next information session:

Thursday 5 April, City Chambers (east building), Room B21, from 1.15 to 2.15pm.

To find out more about the council's commitment to supporting staff to become an MCR mentor, on [Connect](#).