

MCR Mentors Make a Difference

INSIDER



William Wilson is a Technician in the Roads Maintenance section at Neighbourhoods and Sustainability. And he's also one of a growing number of staff who have become a Mentor with MCR Pathways.

William has always enjoyed working with young people and previously volunteered at a local youth project. It was the opportunity to build a one-to-one relationship that encouraged him to sign up to become a mentor. Here's what William told us about his involvement.

What was it like getting ready to become a mentor?

The MCR team were really helpful, and the training and information sessions were very informative. The way that the team takes time to get to know you as a person, your hobbies, your interests is brilliant and incredibly useful when pairing mentors and mentees.

Why did you decide to become a mentor?

I've done a lot of voluntary work at a local youth project. Having been a youth at this very club, I feel that it helped me throughout my teenage years. Coming from a not so affluent area, the other options to spend a Friday night weren't always the best. Being a leader at a youth club with so many young people gave me the opportunity to help steer youths away from teenage peer pressures and stay safe. I think the idea of a young person having a third party person to speak to, who has no real influence in any other aspects of their lives, is a great way to speak to someone without judgement.

What have you gained or enjoyed most from being part of MCR?

I feel I've gained good experience in how to communicate with a young person in a one-to-one situation. I've also learned just how different school is compared to my time, although I've only been out of school for eight years. I enjoy that my mentee and I have similar interests, which makes it really easy to maintain conversations.

The thought that I may be helping change a young person's life in ways I may not even see or understand has got to be the most satisfying aspect of being a mentor with MCR Pathways.

What would you say to someone who was thinking about becoming a mentor?

Give it a go. There's no need for past experience. There are so many young people that would benefit unbelievable amounts by having a mentor who don't have the opportunity yet.

Could you become an MCR Mentor?

The council is committed to supporting this initiative which is making a real difference to the lives of many of the city's most disadvantaged school pupils. Spending just one hour a week with a young person can make a huge difference to their life.

To find out how to get involved, and what support is available to you, visit [Connect](#)

<http://connect.glasgow.gov.uk/article/20615/MCR-Pathways>

