

# MENTORING MATTERS - ISSUE 14 - DECEMBER 2019

## WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

### Latest News

RECENT EVENTS &  
ACHIEVEMENTS

### Mentoring Moments!

GOOD NEWS STORIES  
FROM ACROSS SCOTLAND

### 2019 Highlights

RECAPPING A  
FABULOUS YEAR

What a year! 2019 has been unforgettable in so many ways. This year was all about highlighting the power of individuals to make transformational change. Small actions from thousands of people matter. You, our mentors and partners, are creating **#TheRippleEffect**. When we work together to empower young people, they take that support and spread it far – our schools see the impact, communities feel a change and organisations see the difference in the next generation of employees.

From working in just one school in 2007, we're now fully operational in schools across **Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, North Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire** and **West Dunbartonshire**. We've begun working in **Clackmannanshire** and the **Shetland Islands** and look forward to further growth in Edinburgh and Aberdeen - **with more news to come!** We've created new partnerships, made an impact on policy, and supported our young people to take charge of designing the future of Scotland.

With the year coming to a close and the festive season in full swing, we invite you to join us in recapping the last 12 months. Thank you for supporting Scotland's young people. **We look forward to working together in 2020!**



**50**

Schools as we  
enter 2020



**2000+**

Young people supported  
through Group-work,  
Mentoring, & Next Steps



**10**

Local Authority  
Partnerships



# Latest News

## TALENT TASTERS

We are well on our way for another record breaking year for our Talent Taster programme. This year's October & November tranche of Talent Tasters has been incredibly successful - our partners have helped deliver **80 Talent Taster sessions** for **384 individual young people** who took part in a phenomenal **978 individual experiences!**

We've had some unbelievable interactive sessions; from filming music videos, caring for young children, right through to finding lost maps and catering events. Big shout out to our returning partners and a **HUGE** MCR welcome to our brand new partners.

[Click here to read more about the sessions and how to host them in our new Talent Taster Blog!](#)



## PARTNERS START THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Our partners are an integral part of the MCR story and play a huge role in supporting our young people. Through encouraging staff to mentor, hosting Talent Tasters, sharing their resources and providing staff to work on projects! **Click below to find out more about our partners who are creating The Ripple Effect:**



**Could you be one of our new partners for 2020?**  
Check out [our new partner page](#) to find out more and to get involved.



# Favourite Mentoring Moments

## ABERDEEN

Just as every young person is different, each mentor relationship has its own special rhythm. **At St Machar Academy in Aberdeen, one mentor & young person have bonded over their shared interest in business. Taylor\* shares:**

"I look forward to my meetings at the end of the week. My mentor is **funny**, she is **calm** and **gives me choices**. She **shares her knowledge** of business. She **treats me with respect**."

My mentor meetings **calm me down**. They help me **focus in classes**."

## ABERDEENSHIRE



Sarah has seen a confidence boost in her young person since she started mentoring. Sarah said: **"My mentee was extremely shy when I first met her. My mentee will now happily chat away. She has also started taking part in extracurricular activities after school and helping out at a youth club. I am so proud of her!"**

## EDINBURGH

It was a day of double celebrations recently for young person Victoria\* and mentor Lynne. On top of it being Victoria's birthday, she had also **smashed her target of being in school, on time, three days out of five for two consecutive weeks!**



## GLASGOW

Rachel\* from Hillhead is a real film buff. So when Sue, Rachel's mentor, heard about the Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) Youth Film Festival, she knew it was a perfect match! Rachel applied and gained a place on the programme. Staff at GFT were super supportive and she had a brilliant experience!



**"I learnt a lot about the film industry. I wouldn't have heard about the programme if my mentor hadn't told me about it."**



## NORTH AYRSHIRE

Sometimes, it's the small things that make all the difference, as mentor Joe from North Ayrshire discovered.

He said: **"The Pathways Coordinator was very helpful in finding an unused music room for our meetings - this has helped with having a space where our conversation won't be overheard or interrupted. He knows we'll always be in the same place at the same time, every week."**



## SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Young person Katie\* and her mentor Julia have been meeting for around 5 weeks in South Lanarkshire and have thoroughly enjoyed spending time together.

**Almost every meeting has ran over the allotted 50 minute period as they're having so much fun!** Definitely no awkward silences between these two.



## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE



Jason\*, from Clydebank High School, and his mentor, Patricia, have been bonding over an appreciation for photography. After Patricia loaned Jason a camera, the imagery captured has been put on display. One of these places was an MCR coffee morning at the school, which welcomes all those associated with the programme.

**Keep it up, Jason!**

**We love hearing your mentoring successes! Please keep sharing your favourite mentoring moments with us on your Mentor Hub and on social media.**

Jack shared that his mentee had an extra ticket to attend an award ceremony and he personally asked Jack to come along. It was a really special moment **"To know that they have invested their hope in me and trusted me with their emotions is an honour that transcends any expression of words...I am sure many of you will know how I am feeling."**

David was delighted when his mentee spontaneously created a new game for them to play. He explained: **"I played finger football across two desks with my young person this morning. A polystyrene ball and finger flicks through finger goals. It was fantastic!"**



# 2019 Highlights

## Winter

### THE CHARITY AWARDS

We were delighted to begin the year by being shortlisted for 2019's Charity Awards in the Education and Training Category. The Charity Awards are the most prestigious accolade in the charity sector and we were honoured to be able to represent our mentors and young people in front of such a wide audience. It was a terrific event with some of the UK's best-loved charities in attendance. [Here's to you, Charity Awards!](#)



### MENTORING COMES TO SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

March of 2019 saw us launching into six schools around the Hamilton and Rutherglen areas in South Lanarkshire. [Calderside Academy](#), [Cathkin High School](#), [Hamilton Grammar School](#), [St John Ogilvie High School](#), [Stonelaw High School](#) and [Trinity High School](#) became our newest partners and we were delighted to get started there!



### MILESTONES IN THE NORTH EAST

**First 100 Mentors!**



After expanding into a number of schools in the North East in 2018, in March we were thrilled to reach our **first 100 mentors in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire!** This was a fantastic achievement, and want to thank all of our partners and new mentors there who have helped share our programme.

With partnerships in more schools throughout the North East on the horizon, we're hopeful this number will keep on growing. We can't wait to keep working with our mentors to support all the young people in the area.



# Spring

## BRAVE ; NOT BROKEN

In April, we held our [second MCR National Conference](#) at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The day was designed, hosted and orchestrated by more than 60 Young Scottish Talent Ambassadors and they all did fantastically well.

The day was filled with workshops, inspiring stories, amazing performances and more. Our young people took charge, interviewing John Swinney, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and others about the changes needed to make Scotland better for care-experienced young people and those held back by their circumstances. Thanks to everyone who came as it was such a memorable day. If you missed it, [you can watch the highlights video here!](#) **Be sure to check out our young people's work from the day:**



[Watch the Ambassador's mental health animation.](#)



[Read Aamina's blog on her experience.](#)

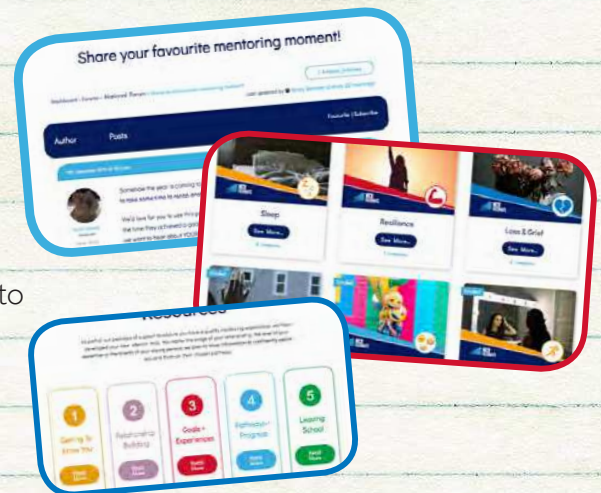


[Watch Hala's reflection on mental health.](#)

## MENTOR HUB!

In July, we launched our first version of the MCR Mentor Hub. The Mentor Hub is your 'one stop online shop' for **Forums, Resources, Courses** and your **Weekly Feedback Forms**. Please let us know if there's anything you'd like us to add to the Hub as we look forward to exciting further developments there in the new year!

**Thanks also to everyone who's contributed to some great topics on the Hub forums in 2019!**



# Summer

## WELCOME CLACKMANNANSHIRE



In August, we established a new partnership with Clackmannanshire Council and it was amazing to meet all the prospective mentors at our launch event. We are excited to be able to bring the MCR Pathways programme into Alva Academy, Alloa Academy and Lornshill Academy. We can't wait to help the young people of Clackmannanshire realise what they're capable of. [Learn more about the launch here!](#)



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Over the summer, we had some special co-workers at the MCR central office in Glasgow: our interns! Each one a part of the MCR Next Steps Programme; the interns were tasked with creating the YST Next Steps Hub, an online resource to help support young people's journey in school and beyond. We're looking forward to launching this awesome new tool in 2020.

Thanks to **Fabio, Reni, Hayley, Amie, Billy, Sylvia, Jack** and **Bryan**, you were truly the dream team! Check out both of the internship reflections blogs [here](#) and [here](#).



## REACHING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE



In August, we were honoured and humbled to be able to support **2000 young people nationally!** This is an unbelievably important milestone, we're well on our way to reaching **5000** and we couldn't have done it without every single one of our mentors. Every young person has something unique and special to offer the world but, for many, that potential doesn't have the opportunity to flourish. With the support of a mentor, young people are able to build their confidence and find their skills.

**Thank you everyone who has been a part of this journey! We won't stop until all young people have the tools they need to succeed.**

# Autumn

## AWARDS SEASON

The changing of the season saw us entering not just autumn, but awards season. We were ecstatic to win both a Diversity through Education accolade, jointly with University of Strathclyde, and an Inspiring City Award for Education. These are both huge honours! Read more about the coverage from both nights, in [our blog](#) and in [The Herald's story](#).

In the last few weeks of the year, we were also delighted to [win the Third Sector Partnership Award with Glasgow City Council](#) at the Scottish Public Service Awards. Organised by the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and Holyrood magazine, the awards recognise the rich diversity of public life in Scotland and the vital relationships that are making an impact.





## MCR TALKS POLICY



This year, our founder Dr Iain MacRitchie was invited to contribute to the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care. [In this article](#), he shared the MCR story and ambition to change the lives of care-experienced young people and those held back by their circumstances across Scotland. Iain also outlined the policy changes needed to better support these young people. The journal has an international readership so was a great chance to show the world the steps Scotland is taking to tackle the issues young people face.

2019 also saw a number of changes to policies which affect young people. In October, we wrote an overview of the [State of Care in Scotland](#). This overview outlined the policy changes and explained how and why these affect care-experienced young people of Scotland.

At MCR Pathways, we believe that the only way for transformational change for care-experienced people is if they are leading the discussion. We asked some of our own care-experienced Young Scottish Ambassadors on their thoughts on some of the recent policy changes and how these changes affect them.

[Click to watch the video and what they have to say.](#)



## ANOTHER MENTORING MILESTONE!

To top off an already incredible year, we also **reached 1,000 mentors** across Scotland! There are so many people out there who wish to make a difference and help young people fulfil their potential. Let's keep improving the lives of young people throughout the country and help find even more people to get involved.

Do you know anyone who would make a fab mentor? Why not share your own mentoring experience to encourage them to [sign up on our website - www.mcrpathways.org](http://www.mcrpathways.org).



**Thank you for all your continued support throughout 2019!**  
**All of our - and the young people's - successes are shared with all of our mentors and partners. We're so excited to reach more young people than ever and make 2020 the best year yet!**