



Mentoring Matters

June 2021 Issue 16

What's in this Newsletter?



Congratulations!

It's the end of this school year and what a year it's been.

While we have been able to celebrate some **major milestones** this academic year, there have of course been some difficult times too. Our young people, who already face hurdles, have truly had their resilience tested and we hope things are now looking brighter for them all. Despite the challenges thrown at us all, **our fantastic school and mentor community has really shone throughout.**

We're delighted at the recent easing of restrictions around Scotland which allowed at least some mentors and young people to meet face-to-face towards the end of term. It's felt like a long journey, and many of us have gotten used to virtual mentoring, but nothing beats meeting in person and that connection you build together. Hopefully things will continue to ease for the next school year.

In this newsletter we will **highlight our favourite moments** of the last few months and say **a massive thank you to everyone in the MCR community.** With your help, we can't wait to reach even more young people in the coming term!



12 LOCAL
AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIPS



3,000
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED



77
SCHOOLS NATIONALLY

Major Milestones

ENDING THE SCHOOL YEAR ON A HIGH!

On June 14th, we were absolutely delighted to be announced winners of a **CSJ Award 2021!**

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank which partners with grassroots charities across Britain, as well as experts from across the world, to tackle the root causes of poverty and social breakdown.

The team visited us in April and spent time talking to Emily from St Margaret Mary's in Castlemilk about her journey through school. Joining the programme in 2017, Emily took part in groupwork, mentoring and Talent Tasters, and continued to be supported by her fantastic Pathways Coordinator Irene and mentor Elaine, even throughout the recent pandemic. A massive thank you to Emily and Elaine who took part in a short film created especially to showcase the impact of mentoring.

We are proud to present their short film on our YouTube channel. You can also read more about the award on their **website**.



MENTORING EXPANDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



On March 24th, the Scottish Government announced a major funding package which offers us the chance to reach thousands more inspiring young people across the country, who will now have the chance to have a mentor. **To read more about the announcement from the Scottish Government, please click [here](#).**



On 27th May, The Hunter Foundation also showed its support by committing additional funding, showing the confidence invested in this journey. **Read more about this partnership with The Hunter Foundation by clicking [here](#).**



Meanwhile, south of the border, Impetus & The Henry Smith Charity were announced as pioneering partners for MCR Pathways in England. The first group of schools is planning to launch the programme in Hertfordshire - a huge step for us. We look forward to working with Hertfordshire County Council to develop the programme in England. **You can read more about this announcement by clicking [here](#).**



**“ MCR Pathways CEO, Graeme McEwan said:
It has long been our ambition to make mentoring a right for all care-experienced young people across the nation. This year, we've made enormous strides to achieving that goal. ”**

NEW MATCHING SYSTEM

Our fantastic new digital matching system was launched at the start of the 2021, designed to increase the speed and quality of mentoring matches. Now, as part of our matching process, both young people and prospective mentors tell us about their passions, personality and pathways to build an understanding of their interests, experiences and career goals. From there, a score is generated for each mentor in relation to each young person in their selected schools, allowing our Pathways Coordinators to quickly shortlist mentors for their young people and make a fully informed choice.

This powerful platform will continue to improve as we grow and offer future opportunities to further analyse our matching performance.



SHOOSMITHS CHARITY PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT

SHOOSMITHS

We have been selected as one of the charity partners for 2021/2022 by leading UK law firm, Shoosmiths. The two areas of focus for their choices were social mobility and mental health. Their support will focus on providing local assistance, particularly in the Edinburgh area and they are keen to encourage colleagues to mentor and support MCR.

CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD FUNDRAISER

We were grateful to be one of the four charities selected for the **Cushman & Wakefield Rob Worboys Challenge 2021 fundraiser**. Participants took part in an impressive 3.5 hour cycle in the morning and then a 3.5 run / walk in the afternoon or a 3.5 hour run / walk in the afternoon for the Half Worboys. It was an honour to be the only Scottish charity chosen and **they raised a fantastic sum of £40k combined** for all four charities. Well done all!



IN THE NEWS

As ever, we love sharing our mentoring stories and news in each region to encourage others to get involved **Here's a few favourite highlights from recent months...**



Earlier this year, we announced our Founder Iain MacRitchie's appointment to the Promise Oversight Board, reporting to Scotland's care community. The Board are using The Plan to monitor the progress organisations make individually, and the progress Scotland makes collectively towards The Promise's key priorities. **Read more here.**



Thank you to Awish and John from Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow who spoke so fondly of their meetings to the Glasgow Times, including how they kept in touch throughout lockdowns. **Read more here.**

AYRSHIRE
POST

**PERTSHIRE
ADVERTISER**

We were delighted to expand in North Ayrshire and officially launch in Perth & Kinross!

Read more in The Ayrshire Post and the Perthshire Advertiser.

Stories From Around The Country

ABERDEEN

On a recent catch-up with a young person from Hazlehead Academy who has been mentored since November 2021, **the pupil said that having her mentor, Lynn, to speak to has helped make her feel a bit more confident.** On reviewing her well-being web, she also identified that she feels more listened to as a result of having someone to speak to.

We love hearing the difference mentoring is making to our young people!



ABERDEENSHIRE

At Banff Academy, pupils taking part in the SI YST Group Work recently **spoke about their lives using the story cubes they constructed with pictures** they felt made their stories true to life. It was a fun and enjoyable session as they all got to know one another more.



CLACKMANNANSHIRE

While mentoring through lockdown, Alloa Academy mentor, Colin, created fun ways to interact with his young person through Zoom. Now that they're able to meet face-to-face, **Colin has been creating model planes with his young person.** They've been planning, assembling and painting together. The sky's the limit with this pair!

EDINBURGH

One young person from Wester Hailes Education Centre was planning to return to school after the summer, but recently decided **she would like to go to college full-time to study Dance**. She has only been meeting with her mentor for a couple of months virtually and didn't have any applications in for college.

Recently, during their second face-to-face meeting, the pupil's mentor, Taciana, supported her to write her personal statement and complete the college application.

They have a great relationship considering they had to start their relationship virtually and have only met in-person twice!



GLASGOW

We've had so many great stories from all 30 schools in Glasgow throughout the year. As tough as it's been not being able to meet with the mentees face-to-face, both our young people and mentors have been resolute!

For mentor Marianna and pupil Sofia*, from Shawlands Academy, they were recently able to meet in-person for the first time since last year. With the virtual mentoring options not suiting Sofia, Marianna was very patient and often contacted the Pathways Coordinator to pass on messages to Sofia. We're delighted to see this pair and many other relationships meet up as restrictions ease!



NORTH AYRSHIRE

As some schools have been allowed to meet their young people face-to-face, for many, it will be their first time meeting after months of chatting virtually. At Auchenharvie Academy, one young person was thrilled at having the chance to meet their mentor. Mentee, David*, was waiting for the right mentor and, now that he's found them, **he visited the Pathway Coordinator's room several times to find out when they could finally meet and they've now been allowed to meet in-person!**



SHETLAND

It's been amazing to see more mentoring relationships blossom in Shetland! Miriam, who started meeting her young person in December, has loved mentoring and it fills her with so much joy:

"From the word go, we both basically couldn't stop speaking, and found common interests immediately. It was only our third meeting when the young person mentioned how much she is looking forward to each meeting - and I couldn't agree more! It makes my heart sing to see my mentee really enjoying having somebody listening to her without any judgement, but to also give some guidance."



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

For years, Craig*, who attends Cathkin High School, was detached from school and other services. **After meeting and working with William, the school's coordinator, his attendance went from 30% to 90%!** With the improved attendance, Craig could be matched with a mentor.

Craig was matched with Steph and the pair hit it off in their recent first meeting! **He even wanted to send Steph a message afterwards saying something that he forgot to mention during their opening chat.** An amazing turnaround!



WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Caitlin*, who is in S4 at Our Lady & St Patrick's High School, will soon be leaving to study Child Care at college. Having had the support of her mentor for some time, Caitlin is feeling confident about the future and had this to say reflecting on her time being mentored:

"I really enjoyed having a mentor, it was so good to have someone to talk to and to give me advice. My mentor was so lovely and we have become friends. If any other young person was unsure about getting a mentor, I would say - just give it a go, as it helped me in so many ways."



What's Next?

Next year, not only are we looking forward to some return to normality, **we are also expecting to grow into more areas and schools where mentoring and further support for young people is desperately needed.**



Coming Soon **to the Highlands!**

We are delighted to announce that we are about to launch our programme in **the Highlands!** It's a fantastic opportunity for us to reach young people from Wick to Lochaber.

The programme is expected to roll out to seven schools in the region from early Autumn so please feel free to share this news with friends and family who might be interested to get involved.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported us this year.

Whether you mentor a young person, support the programme in your school or have helped to share and expand our programme, we are so grateful for your help.

It is our goal to reach 4,000 young people by the end of this year. As highlighted in the Care Review's Promise, we want to make mentoring a right for all care-experienced young people and those who need it.

For now though, we'd like to wish everyone a fantastic summer!

We love sharing our young people's successes and hearing your mentoring stories!

Please keep sharing your favourite mentoring moments on your Mentor Hub. **Make sure you are following us on social media so you don't miss any of our good news stories from around the country.**



/mcrpathways

*Name has been changed as young person preferred to remain anonymous