Youth Mentoring Scheme

TARGET AUDIENCE:
Individuals

PURPOSE:
Prevention

AGENCIES INVOLVED:
Metropolitan Police Service
Local Authority
Youth Offending Service

STATUS:
Non-Statutory Requirement
Pilot Intervention

PATHWAYS PRINCIPLE:
Help

CHARACTERISTICS:
Age

What is this?

This intervention forms part of Barnet Borough’s Youth Offending Triage system. First time entrants aged 12-17 years, excluding those arrested for knife crime offences, will be referred to the Youth Offending Service prior to a disposal decision. The young person is assigned a case worker from the YOS who will offer the mentoring scheme. Should they agree to engage the scheme, they will be assigned a local volunteer, who has been trained to enable them to establish and maintain good relationships with the young person that is based on trust, commitment and common goals.

The initial contract is for 3 months, in the first 6 weeks the young person meets their mentor on a weekly basis for 1 hour. The frequency of the meetings is then agreed by mentor and the individual. The young person will be set an action plan by the mentor and progress is discussed at the weekly meetings. The mentor will identify issues the young person has that may effect offending and will signpost them into other services, they will support the young person through each referral. After 3 months the mentor will meet with the young persons case worker and they will decide if there has been sufficient progress to end the mentor scheme.

The scheme can be extended if the action plan has not been completed or the young person shows signs of re offending. If the young person re-offends during the three month contract they will be removed from the triage system and placed back into justice system.
Youth Mentoring Scheme

How does it work?

1. Young person is arrested for offence other than relating to knife crime.
2. If the young person does not have a previous criminal sanction they will be referred to the Youth Offending Service for ‘triage’ process.
3. YOS case worker will offer the mentoring scheme.
4. Three month contract agreed.
5. At the conclusion of three months the scheme maybe extended.

What do I need to watch out for?

This intervention requires a strong partnership between Police and YOS.

RISK FACTORS ADDRESSED:
- Early involvement in crime
- Low educational achievement
- Truancy at school

PROTECTIVE FACTORS ENHANCED:
- Opportunities for involvement, social and reasoning skills, recognition and due praise
- Link with adults and peers who hold ‘model’ positive social behaviour

Find out more:
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Why is it useful?
The overall aim of the project is to prevent young people turning to criminal activity by using mentoring as a means of guidance and diversion away from crime.

Disclaimer: The effectiveness and cost implications of the intervention are not known to the author of this handbook. This intervention is one example idea only and other similar interventions may be available.