

PEER MENTORING THAT MEETS YOUNG PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Lived experience • trusted relationships • practical progress

Designed for young people facing transition, disruption or disconnection

Flexible, relationship-based mentoring for young people aged 14–21. Referrals can be made by local authorities, schools, Virtual Schools, supported accommodation providers and Youth Justice Services.

WHO WE SUPPORT

LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN

Consistent support alongside the care plan and professional network

CARE LEAVERS

Confidence, independence, relationships and routes into EET

YOUTH JUSTICE

Children subject to YJS intervention, cautions or court orders

RISK OF NEET

Re-engagement with education, training, employment and aspiration

EDGE OF CARE

Early help, trusted relationships and strengthened protective factors

SCHOOL INCLUSION

Support where attendance, behaviour or exclusion risk is escalating

WHAT MENTORING ADDRESSES

Belonging & trusted relationships • emotional regulation & wellbeing
School attendance, engagement & positive behaviour • personal safety & safer choices
Goals, motivation & self-belief • EET pathways, employability & independent living

Trauma-informed • strengths-based • culturally responsive • young-person-led • professionally supervised

WHY TARGETED MENTORING MATTERS

Evidence of need • a clear response • measurable next steps

The need is significant — and support should remain ambitious

40%

of care leavers aged 19–21 were NEET in 2025, versus an estimated 15% of all young people of that age.¹

42%

of looked-after children aged 5–16 with a recorded SDQ had scores classed as a cause for concern in 2025.¹

44%

of children in need were persistently absent from school in 2023/24.²

31.8%

was the proven reoffending rate for children in the latest published cohort.³

+2

months' additional academic progress, on average

EEF also reports potential benefits for attitudes to school, attendance and behaviour. Regular, sustained meetings and reliable, trained mentors matter.⁴

OUR MENTORING RESPONSE

A consistent mentor and safe relationship → an individual baseline, goals and action plan → weekly practical sessions → progress reviewed with the young person and referrer.

Progress can be evidenced through engagement, attendance, goal completion, EET activity, emotional-regulation strategies, safer decision-making and the young person's own feedback.

FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONING

1 session £75 • 6 sessions £405 SAVE £45 • 12 sessions £765 SAVE £135

One-hour sessions • bespoke group and commissioned packages available

Sources: ¹ DfE CLA 2025 ² DfE social-care education outcomes 2024 ³ MoJ/YJB 2024–25 ⁴ EEF Mentoring Toolkit, May 2025

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