



BIRMINGHAM URBAN RHYTHM NETWORK

Mentoring Outreach Delivery

July 2022 - March 2023



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The mentoring outreach programme delivered by BURN, with funding from SAFE Birmingham, proved to be a highly successful initiative, with positive engagement from young people in the Aston, Newtown, and Kingstanding areas. The programme provided youth mentors who were able to engage with young people on the streets, building positive relationships and providing positive diversionary activities.

Through group mentoring sessions focused on anti-social behaviour and exploitation, young people were given a safe space to explore the impact of these issues and were able to sustain contact over the summer. The programme successfully engaged with over 80 young people from a variety of schools, including Aston Manor, Broadway School, Holte, and NBA.

One of the key successes of the programme was its ability to engage young people on a regular basis, with 2-3 sessions delivered every week. This regular engagement was crucial in building positive relationships and trust between the youth mentors and the young people, which in turn allowed for more effective delivery of the mentoring and workshops.

The programme also successfully incentivized young people to participate in positive activities, providing them with a sense of purpose and direction during the summer months. This was particularly important in helping to prevent anti-social behaviour and exploitation, as it provided young people with positive alternatives to potentially harmful activities.

The mentoring outreach programme also showed a great deal of flexibility and adaptability in responding to the needs of young people in the area. The youth mentors were able to tailor their approach to the specific needs and interests of each group of young people they engaged with, ensuring that the programme remained relevant and engaging throughout the summer.

Another key success of the programme was its ability to address important issues such as anti-social behaviour, mental health, identity, contextual safeguarding and exploitation in a safe and supportive environment. By providing young people with a space to explore these issues and their impact, the programme was able to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to make positive choices and avoid harmful behaviours.

Through the group mentoring sessions, young people were able to discuss these issues with their peers and youth mentors, gaining valuable insights and perspectives from others who had experienced similar situations. This peer learning approach was highly effective in helping young people to feel heard and understood, and in building a sense of community and support around the issues they faced.

The positive impact of the programme was also evident in the feedback received from young people and their families. Many of the young people involved in the programme reported feeling more confident, empowered and informed about the issues they faced, with some even expressing a desire to become youth workers themselves in the future.

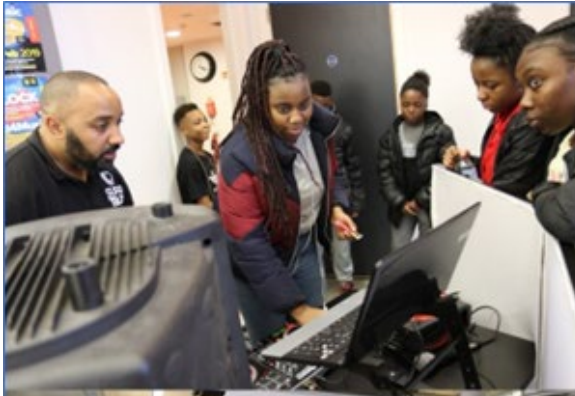
Parents and caregivers also spoke positively about the programme, with many acknowledging the positive impact it had on their children's behaviour and attitudes towards their community. This feedback served as a testament to the importance of community-led initiatives in addressing issues of social exclusion and marginalisation.

In addition to the engagement with young people, the programme also fostered positive relationships between BURN and other community organisations in the area. This served to strengthen the network of support available to young people in the community, and helped to build a sense of collaboration and shared responsibility for the wellbeing of young people in the area.

In conclusion, the mentoring outreach programme delivered by BURN and funded by SAFE Birmingham was a highly successful initiative that engaged young people in the Aston, Newtown and Kingstanding areas, and had a positive impact on their lives and the wider community. The regular delivery of group mentoring sessions, focus on positive diversionary activities, and peer learning approach all contributed to a highly effective programme that responded to the specific needs and interests of young people in the area.

The success of the programme serves as an excellent example of the importance of community-led initiatives in addressing issues of social exclusion and marginalisation, and highlights the positive impact that targeted support and community engagement can have on young people and their communities.

community organisations and initiatives seeking to engage and support young people in similar contexts, and should be further developed and expanded to reach even more young people in need of support and positive engagement.



Delivery Continued

The continuation of the mentoring outreach programme from September 2022 to March 2023, with funding from SAFE Birmingham. This was decided by the summer engagement and the further need to trial this engagement strategy with young people. Young people that do not traditional access services are seen as hard to reach, capturing the voices of children and young people. This funding allowed for sustained engagement with young people in the targeted areas. The programme was able to engage new young people while also signposting many of them to youth service provision. The programme was particularly effective in engaging young people who were deemed to be at medium to high risk of exploitation, county lines, and gangs. These young people felt marginalised and were aggrieved with the education system, with many feeling that schools were not able to understand them.

The mentoring outreach programme proved to be a unique and innovative approach to engaging with young people who are at risk of social exclusion and marginalisation. By taking a proactive approach to engagement, the programme was able to reach young people who may have otherwise been difficult to engage through traditional methods. The use of street-based outreach and diversionary activities also provided a safe and supportive environment for young people to explore important issues and build positive relationships with youth workers and peers.

One of the key successes of the programme was its ability to provide early intervention and prevention for young people who may be at risk of exploitation and other harmful behaviours. By engaging these young people early and providing them with positive alternatives to potentially harmful activities, the programme was able to reduce their risk of becoming involved in negative behaviours.

The diversionary activities provided during October half term, Christmas holidays, and February half-term were particularly successful in engaging young people and providing them with positive alternatives to

potentially harmful activities. These activities included sports, arts and crafts, and other group activities that encouraged positive social interaction and teamwork.

Another key success of the programme was its ability to signpost young people to other youth service provision. This allowed for a more holistic approach to support, with young people being able to access a range of services and support as needed. The programme was also effective in building positive relationships with other community organisations and stakeholders, which helped to strengthen the network of support available to young people in the area.

However, there were also some challenges associated with the programme. One of the main challenges was the difficulty in retaining engagement with some young people, particularly those at higher risk of exploitation and other harmful behaviours. This highlights the need for ongoing support and engagement for these young people, beyond the duration of the programme.

Another challenge was the limited funding available for the programme, which made it difficult to sustain engagement with young people over an extended period. This highlights the need for continued investment in community-led initiatives that support young people who are at risk of social exclusion and marginalisation.

Context

The outreach street-based mentoring program was designed to reach out to young people who were at a higher risk of gangs and exploitation. The program aimed to provide these young people with support and guidance to help them make positive choices and improve their life outcomes.

Case Study 1

Many of the young people who engaged with the program felt that their school did not understand their needs and challenges. They felt that they were not getting the support they needed to succeed in their education and were at risk of dropping out of school. The program provided these young people with a safe space to share their experiences and concerns and receive support and guidance from mentors and professionals.

The program was a success, as many of the young people who engaged with the program were able to access youth services in their locality and take part in educational workshops. The program helped these young people to develop new skills and improve their confidence, which in turn helped them to make positive choices and improve their life outcomes.

One of the young people who engaged with the program was a 15-year-old boy who had been excluded from school. He had become involved with a local gang and was at risk of getting involved in criminal activity. The program provided him with a mentor who helped him to see the risks and consequences of his choices and supported him to access local youth services.

The young person attended a series of workshops on positive decision-making, communication skills, and conflict resolution. He also received one-to-one mentoring sessions, where he was able to discuss his concerns and receive guidance and support from his mentor. Through the program, the young person was able to develop new skills and improve his confidence, which helped him to make positive choices and improve his life outcomes.



Overall, the outreach street-based mentoring program was a success in engaging with marginalised young people who were at a higher risk of gangs and exploitation. The program provided these young people with support and guidance to help them make positive choices and improve their life outcomes. The program was able to achieve this by providing a safe space for young people to share their experiences and concerns, and by providing them with access to local youth services and educational workshops.

Context

The outreach street-based mentoring program was designed to engage with and support marginalised young people who were at a higher risk of gangs and exploitation. The program was successful in building a voluntary relationship with these young people, in part because it allowed them to engage incognito. This meant that the young people did not need to give their real names when engaging with staff, which helped to build trust and create a safe space for them to share their experiences and concerns.





Case Study 2

One of the young people who engaged with the program was a 16-year-old girl who had experienced significant trauma in her life. She had been in and out of care and had been involved in gangs and criminal activity. Because of her experiences, she was distrustful of adults and found it difficult to open up to anyone.

The program's incognito engagement approach helped to build trust with the young person. She was able to engage with the program without feeling like she was being judged or stigmatized. She was able to share her experiences and concerns with the program staff and receive support and guidance without fear of repercussions.

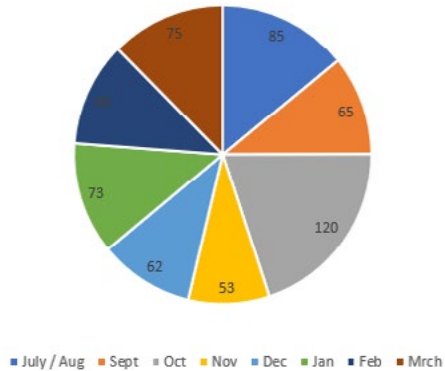
Through the program, the young person was able to access support services, including counseling and group therapy. She also participated in educational workshops on communication skills and positive decision-making. The program staff provided her with one-to-one mentoring, which helped her to build her self-esteem and confidence.

Over time, the young person's engagement with the program helped to change her life outcomes. She stopped being involved in gangs and criminal activity and started to make positive choices. She went back to school and was able to complete her education. She also started to develop positive relationships with adults and other young people, which helped her to build a support network.

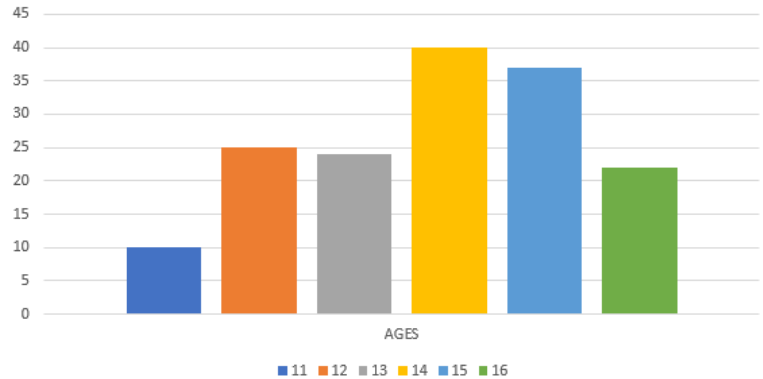
The incognito engagement approach played a significant role in the success of the program in engaging with this young person. It allowed her to engage with the program without fear of repercussions and helped to build trust with the program staff. This, in turn, allowed her to access support services and make positive choices that helped to improve her life outcomes.



Individual Contacts



Young People Ages



Individual contacts are the young people engaged with and does not consider the attendances as many of the young people engaged with by staff were the same young people each week. The focus was on quality not quantity which made this approach different to normal detached youth outreach delivery. Unique contacts are the total number of young people engaged throughout the entirety of the programme, which is detailed in the below table.

Male	150
Female	35



Staff Testimonial

As a staff member of the outreach street-based mentoring program, I have had the privilege of working with some of the most amazing young people. The program was designed to engage with and support marginalised young people who were at a higher risk of gangs and exploitation, and I have seen first hand how effective it can be in changing their life outcomes.

One of the things that I appreciate most about the program is its incognito engagement approach. This approach allows young people to engage with the program without fear of repercussions or judgment. It creates a safe space for them to share their experiences and concerns, which helps us to better understand their needs and challenges.

Through the program, we provide young people with access to support services, including counseling and group therapy, and educational workshops on communication skills and positive decision-making. We also offer one-to-one mentoring, which helps young people to build their self-esteem and confidence.

One of the young people that I worked with was a 17-year-old boy who had been involved in gangs and criminal activity. He had been expelled from school and was at a crossroads in his life. Through the program, he was able to access support services and educational workshops, which helped him to develop new skills and improve his confidence.



Our one-to-one mentoring sessions helped him to see the risks and consequences of his choices and to develop a plan for his future. Over time, he was able to make positive choices and change his life outcomes. He went back to school and was able to complete his education. He also started to develop positive relationships with adults and other young people, which helped him to build a support network.

Working with this young person was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Seeing him grow and develop over time was truly inspiring, and it is a testament to the effectiveness of the outreach street-based mentoring program.

I am proud to be a staff member of this program, and I believe that it has the potential to change the lives of many more young people. The program's incognito engagement approach, combined with its focus on providing access to support services and educational workshops, is a powerful combination that can help young people to make positive choices and improve their life outcomes. I am honoured to be a part of this program, and I look forward to continuing to support and mentor young people in the years to come.



Cost Benefit Analysis

The outreach youth mentoring program has shown a significant impact on the lives of over 180 young people. The program provides a safe space for young people deemed low to medium risk of exploitation and failing in school. A cost-benefit analysis can help evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

Benefits:

The primary benefits of the outreach youth mentoring program are as follows:

1. Improved Academic Performance

The program has helped young people who were failing in school to improve their academic performance. This can lead to better job opportunities, increased earning potential, and improved quality of life.

2. Reduced Risk of Exploitation

The program has provided a safe space for young people who were at risk of exploitation. This can help prevent them from engaging in risky behaviours and reduce the likelihood of becoming victims of exploitation.

3. Improved Mental Health

The program has helped young people to improve their mental health by providing them with a supportive environment where they can express themselves and receive guidance and support.

4. Reduced Crime

By providing a safe space for young people, the program can help reduce crime in the community. Young people who are engaged in the program are less likely to engage in criminal activities.

Costs

The primary costs of the outreach youth mentoring program are as follows:

1. Staffing

The program requires staffing to facilitate the mentoring sessions, which can be expensive.

2. Facilities

The program requires facilities to hold the mentoring sessions, which can be expensive to rent or maintain.

3. Equipment

The program may require equipment, such as computers, printers, and other materials, which can be expensive to purchase and maintain.

4. Diversionary Activities

To incentive the programme and enable participants to develop valuable social skills and self-awareness.

5. Provide Food and Refreshments

For young people as many times we felt that young people we engaged with were going hungry and impacted heavily by the cost of living.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The outreach youth mentoring program has shown significant benefits to the community. The improved academic performance, reduced risk of exploitation, improved mental health, and reduced crime can have a positive impact on the community. However, the program also has costs associated with staffing, facilities, and equipment.

Overall, the benefits of the outreach youth mentoring program outweigh the costs. The program is an effective way to support young people who are at risk of exploitation and failing in school. By improving the lives of young people, the program can have a positive impact on the community as a whole.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am Tristan Leetis MOM. I am writing this for Darren. I can't thank him enough the support he has given myself and my son the past few weeks. Myself and his dad have had a messy break up (domestic violence) and communication hasn't been good. Darren has supported Tristan emotionally and listened to him. He has kept me informed on how Tristan has been, when he was with his dad. He has built up a good relationship with my son and he trusts him to talk to him about how he is feeling. The activities he has done with, my son has really enjoyed. He really enjoyed the recording studio experience, as he was able to express his feelings through his music. The sky diving experience he had an amazing. He is good Mentor and listens to my son and is very supportive. My son needs someone like darren to support him through those challenging times in his life. I just want what is best for my son and feel if he has that trusting relationship, he can get the best out of life. Again thank you darren for all the support during these trying times.

Yours Sincerely
Miss. Cathy.

BIRMINGHAM URBAN RHYTHM NETWORK

OUR KEY PRINCIPLES



EMPOWERMENT



COMMUNITY



NURTURING



PASSION

BURN

Your community, your voice

To understand things from your point of view, we invite you to tell us exactly what you think your community needs. Your input is the key to improving the community, our work can not be successful if we don't consider how it is going to affect the people it is intended for.

There is no one size fits all approach that would be enough to address the many problems young people face on a day to day basis, we believe that there is a lot of context that we need to understand before we even start suggesting ways to fix them which is why we need your help.

Steve clarke

Operations manager

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