

SMN NATIONAL EVENT

ROUND UP

27th October 2022, The Studio,
Glasgow

#NationalMentoringDay
#SMNNational22

SMN National Event 2022 Round Up

The SMN National Event was held at the Studio, in Glasgow, for the first in person conference since 2019. We decided to run a scaled back conference that focused on bringing our members together, on National Mentoring Day.

The programme kicked off with a welcome from Ally Calder, who gave her thanks to the team for their work throughout the pandemic - and also passed on the baton of the role of Chair to Alastair McGregor.



The audience then heard some reflections from CEO, Maureen Watson.



Maureen spoke on all the challenges that SMN had faced over the course of the pandemic and thanked the membership for their continued support.

Maureen reflected on SMN's role to deliver high quality services and to influence policy and decision making.

She passed on reassurance to the delegates, that despite the upcoming challenges - that SMN would continue to support the members.

CONNECTING UP

Using postcards on the table, the delegates picked one that reflected how they were feeling, and shared with the delegates on their table.

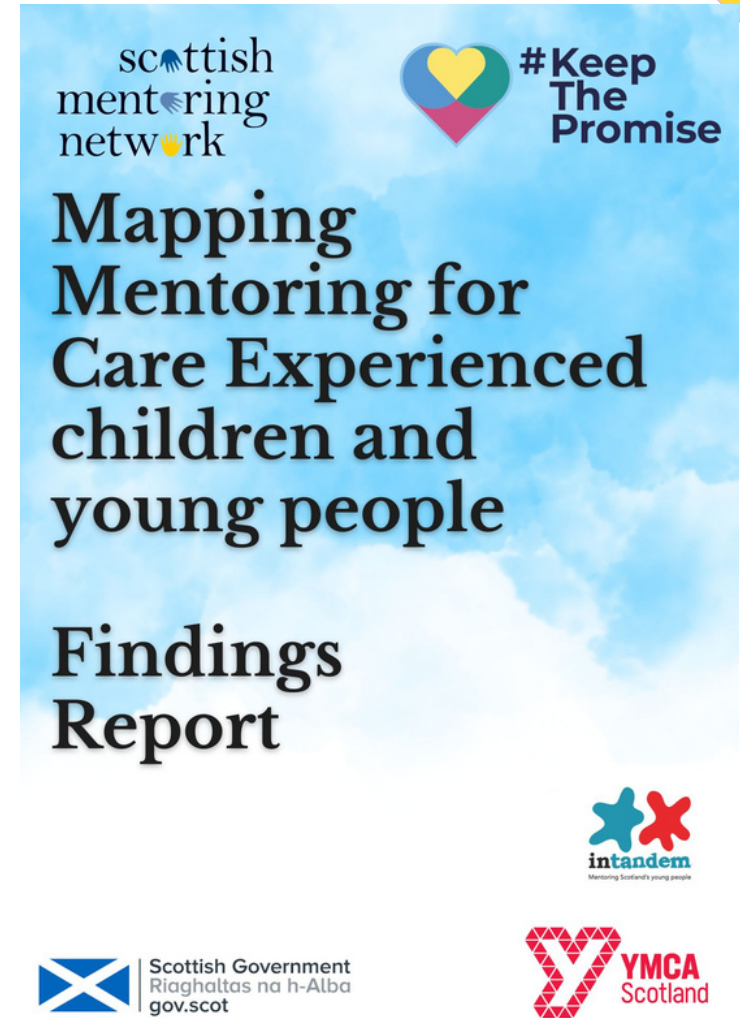




MAPPING MENTORING FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The delegates then heard from Sarah Barr (SMN), Susie White (intandem) and Colin MacFarlane (YMCA Scotland). Sarah shared some key insights from the work to map the provision of mentoring services for care experienced children and young people.

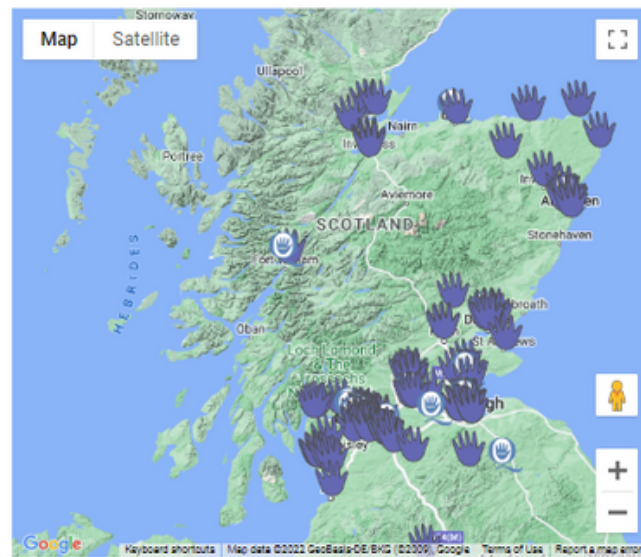
As a result of this mapping work, we were able to write a report summarising the findings. The panel emphasised the importance of collaborating as a way forward to improve the quality and availability of mentoring for this group.



MAPPING MENTORING FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mentoring Service for Young People

This map shows the location and details of mentoring services available to young people in Scotland. More details on each project can be found by clicking on the dots on the map or using the search options. To find what services are available in a specific location, please use the region search function (please note some services head office will be in a different location to all of their mentoring locations).



Mentoring Service SMN Quality Award



Search our directory of young people mentoring projects throughout Scotland:

Keyword:

Type of mentoring service:

Mentoring setting:

Region:

Search

Susie White and Colin MacFarlane then expanded on the findings, and discussed the challenges and opportunities which have been identified as part of this work.

Equality of access, consistency of delivery model and valuing the role of the co-ordinator are some of the challenges to delivering mentoring to this client group.

However there are many opportunities to improve the provision, particularly around collaboration.

The presenters acknowledged that there are many specialist mentoring services, who each have their own areas of expertise - so the best way to take advantage of this collective expertise is through collaboration.

Facilitated Networking

THREE BIG QUESTIONS

We asked the delegates to respond to three big questions that we want to know the answers to. We asked them to write their responses on to post it notes and stick them on big sheets of flip chart paper around the room.

We've taken what the delegates said and created a word cloud for each of the questions.

What's the best thing about mentoring?


environment rewarding someone's
helping mentoring
relationship journey potential
young seeing go connected
beneficial person's making
unforeseen people mentor community two
personal local positive building conversations
lower mentee match person learning enabling
makes difference value helps support experience
outcome mentees life flexible bring alone keeping
grow others engagement best achieve impact
utilise results focused empowering mentors changing relationships
outcomes supportive changed thrive

Facilitated Networking

THREE BIG QUESTIONS

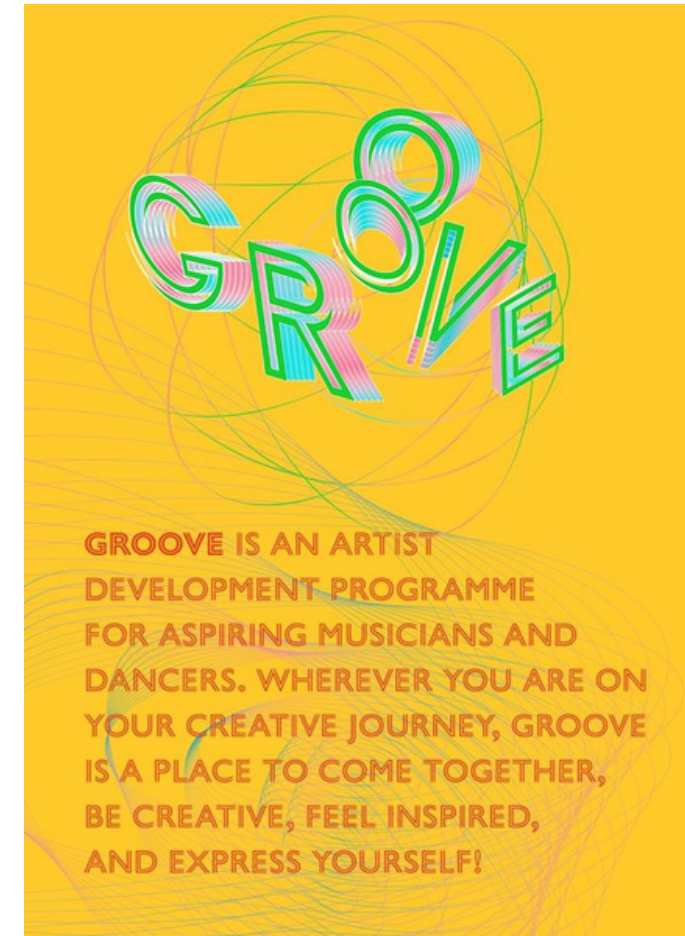
Unsurprisingly, the biggest challenge which the delegates' identified was around funding, and particularly sustained funding - because this is the only way to ensure that mentees can have access to reliable mentoring support. Delegates were also concerned about the cost of living crisis and the impact that it's having on staff and volunteers.

Delegates agreed that the best thing about mentoring was seeing the progress of the mentees, and the difference that it makes to mentors and mentees lives.



We asked the delegates what services should SMN be providing to support you. They shared lots of interesting ideas as well as reiterating the services we currently offer. Sharing, training, networking and opportunities were common themes across the responses. These are all very important to us and we will be discussing these ideas and will consider them in how we shape our future activities.

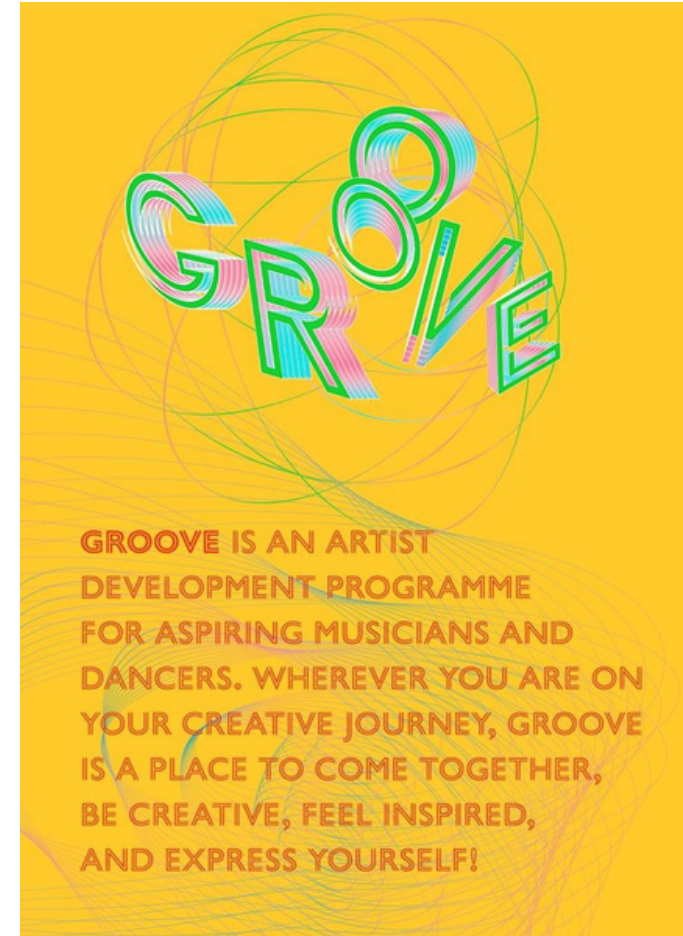
Finding Your Groove



Finding Your Groove

We were delighted to hear a performance from Kirsty and Grace - a mentor and mentee duo from Paragon Music.

Kirsty told her story of how she came to be involved with Paragon, and performed her piece, 'A Love Letter to Paragon'. This was followed by a Q&A about the Groove mentoring programme, where delegates learned more about the mentoring relationships and Kirsty's journey with mentoring.



THANK YOU

Alastair MacGregor thanked Allison Calder for her service on the SMN board and for the wisdom when passing on the role of chair.



Table Discussions

THREE DISCUSSION TOPICS

The delegates made many observations on these topics, and the discussions sparked lots of ideas for change.

These discussion topics were based on some external factors which may have an impact on mentoring services, and we felt it was important to offer members a chance to explore what the impact might be and how to respond to them.

The majority of tables agreed that the climate crisis and cost of living crises are inter-linked, and both very challenging to tackle. Developing organisational and individual resilience, collaboration between mentoring organisations and involving funders and local authorities were some suggested ways to face these challenges.

The delegates were interested to learn more about the Volunteering Action Plan, and recognised that volunteering has also been impacted by the pandemic, and the climate and cost of living crises.

QUALITY AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Positive Changes CIC



GCU Outreach



GCU Staff Mentoring Community

QUALITY AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Growbiz Scotland



Aberlour intandem

QUALITY AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Lochaber Hope



Tayside Council on Alcohol

QUALITY AWARD PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR 10 YEARS OF CONTINUOUSLY HOLDING THE SMN QUALITY AWARD



Tayside Council on Alcohol

Lochaber Hope

**Thank you to everyone who
came along and contributed to
the SMN National Event 2022**