

SMN's Discussion at the Scottish Parliament

24th November 2022

Scottish Mentoring Network was awarded funding from The Promise Fund to investigate the mentoring provision for care experienced children and young people (CECYP) in Scotland. We worked in partnership with intandem and YMCA Scotland to understand the availability of mentoring to this client group. We conducted a survey, followed by focus groups, and were able to create a digital map showing the locations and type of the mentoring service. We also published a findings report to summarise this work.

In order to share our findings, we invited some partners for a discussion session with MSPs at the Scottish Parliament, sponsored by Kaukab Stewart MSP. We were very thankful that Foysol Choudry MSP, Bill Kidd MSP Michael Marra MSP and Rona McKay MSP joined us for this session. Kaukab Stewart MSP expertly hosted the session, chairing a discussion about how organisations can collaborate to address gaps in service provision.

SMN set the scene by summarising the importance of mentoring for CECYP and the current challenges and opportunities presented in the report. Josh Hurd and Susie White from Inspiring Scotland shared the findings from their 'Views from Home' report, reflecting the importance of the mentor role in young peoples' lives. Colin MacFarlane shared his reflections on delivering mentoring programmes.



The group agreed that there was a need to have further conversations about the work that was needed to address inequalities in provision. The colleagues agreed that other stakeholders would need to be included in the discussions.



The group discussed the outcomes of mentoring programmes and posed the question, 'can the young person having a mentoring relationship be an outcome in and of itself?' The nature of care experienced young people's lives means that they can be very chaotic. This makes having a stable, consistent relationship with a mentor even more important. Mentoring also has a role to play in supporting care experienced young to access opportunities - and can be effective at an early stage. The group agreed that Scotland could be leaders in mentoring, and that there are opportunities to further highlight the benefits of mentoring in the future.

We hope that we can continue these conversations, addressing the gaps in mentoring provision for care experienced children and young people. We know that #MentoringWorks - and hope that our vision of *'Effective, high quality mentoring, recognised, valued and available to all'* can contribute to a better future for those with care experience.



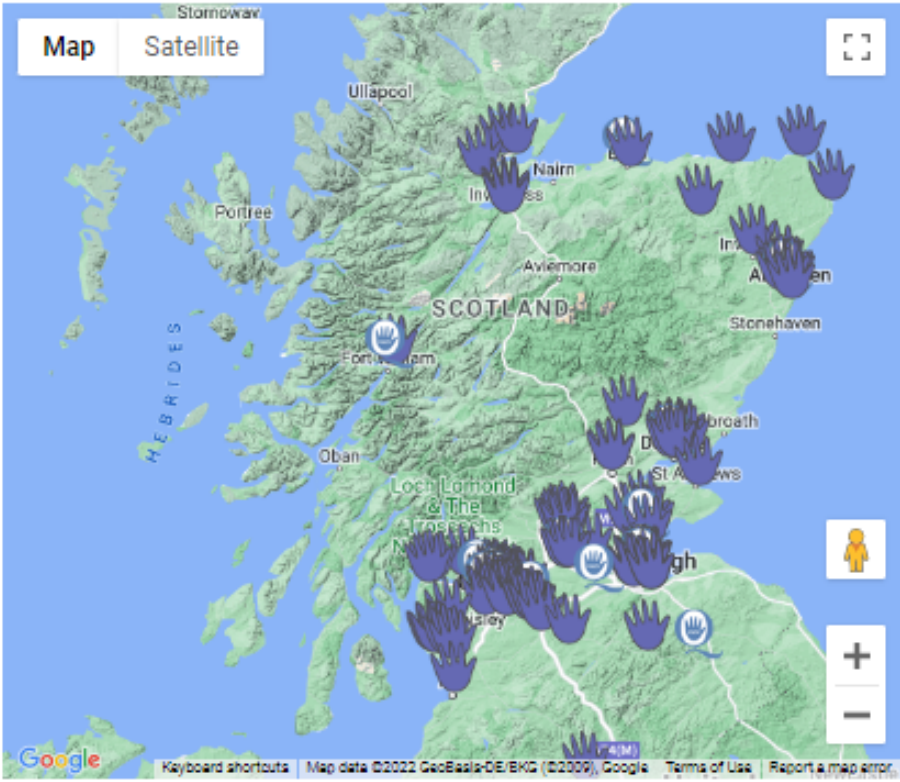
Thank you to everyone who came along to this discussion event. We were joined by a wide range of our members and stakeholders, all your contributions are greatly appreciated.

To learn more about this work, please read our report which can be found at [our website here](#). You can also view the interactive map at [our website here](#).

Thank you to The Promise for funding this work.

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).



Search our directory of young people mentoring projects throughout Scotland:

Keyword:

Type of mentoring service:

Mentoring setting:

Region:

Intandem | the promise | YMCA SCOTLAND

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