

Allenton Big Local – Mentoring

Over the past 6 months we have mentored several young people from the ABL catchment area, 2 of these have been supported through the Allenton Big Local fund. See case studies below

Case Study: MJ

See table below for total number over engagements of the past 6 months

June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Overall engagements
3	6	3	5	3	3	1	24

Background & Context

MJ is 15 years old and she lives with mum, dad, two sisters and brother. There have been several bereavements in the family over the last two years which has affected the family.

MJ attends a local secondary school. Her behaviour at school can be disruptive which is affecting her education. She is regularly in the quiet room or in detention and can be easily influenced into poor behaviour.

She was vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE), particularly on social media.

MJ does not cause ASB in the community; however, she is vulnerable to substance misuse.

What has Enthusiasm done?

Enthusiasm has worked in partnership with social care, school, MJ's family and other agencies to fully support her.

Enthusiasm has had one to one interventions with MJ at least once a week in school and outside of school. She has completed workshops around online safety, aspiration building, positive relationships, substance misuse, confidence and self-esteem building. We have also engaged her in positive activities which enabled her to meet new young people and build confidence.

Enthusiasm has also completed handling teenage behaviour courses with MJ's mum. Enthusiasm supported MJ's mum during professional meetings.

What have been the successes?

MJ is no longer deemed as at risk to CSE and social care have now stepped out.

MJ has changed her friendship groups at School, which has had a positive effect on her behaviour.

She is no longer arranging to meet males or speaking to strangers online.

Her relationship with mum has improved, and the family are much happier. They know how to handle MJ's behaviour.

MJ is preparing to go to college and start a course to become a midwife.

Case Study: LB

See table below for total number over engagements of the past 6 months

June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Overall engagements
10	12	5	8	8	9	7	59

Background and context

LB was referred on to Enthusiasm's mentoring program by her school. She was being bullied at school and was severely beaten by another young person prior to the referral. The family were under a child protection plan as LB and her siblings attendance at school was extremely low, there were concerns around the parents drug use and their capabilities to parent the children as LB was taking on a parenting role and taking her younger sister to school. Professional agencies were unable to engage the family. LB had anger issues and would smash up the family home. She would self-harm as she said that she was angry about life. LB has low self-esteem and was very vulnerable online. The family were also due to be evicted from their family home due to rent arrears.

What has Enthusiasm done?

Enthusiasm started working with LB in February 2015. We have attended professional meetings and shared information with relevant agencies. Enthusiasm was in regular contact with school too. Enthusiasm was able to engage the family, where other agencies struggled. Enthusiasm supported mum to deal with LB's anger issues and at times deflated situations within the home. In July 2015 social care closed the care due attendance increasing at school and because of low engagement from the family.

We have seen LB on a weekly basis usually on a one to one outside school. We have focussed on building self-esteem by getting LB involved in volunteering at Enthusiasm activities. This has enabled LB to make new friendships with young people who live in her area and attend her school. She has also been interviewed for Radio Derby on National Youth Day. We have also highlighted strategies for LB to utilise when she gets angry or feels like she wants to self-harm.

LB engages in positive activities provided to her and will act as a positive role model to the younger children who attend. LB now aspires to become a youth worker and mentor young people when she finishes school.

What have been the successes?

LB's attendance has increased immensely and she is now predicted A's and B's in her GCSEs. She has not self-harmed since being referred and has not shown aggressive behaviour within the home. She engages with enthusiasm every week and has made a lot of new friends through attending youth clubs. LB is no longer being bullied at school and has been highlighted as a well-mannered young lady.

Any drawbacks and how these have been addressed?

The family were evicted from their family home, and were residing at the a local hotel for a period of 2-3 months (including over Christmas). LB was supported during this time by Enthusiasm. In the new year the family moved in to a new home. LB has been assaulted and threatened by knife point and had her phone robbed by the same young person that assaulted her previously. This young person has since been sent to prison.