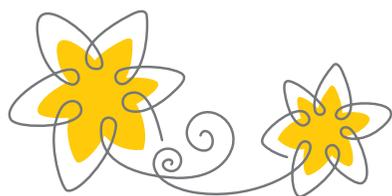


“It was nice having a grown-up I didn’t have to share with my sisters. I could talk to ‘Michael’ about things. He’d give me good advice, like not to fight. I really don’t know why I got into fights at school. It got me into trouble with my teachers and they would write to my mum. She says I’m happier now.”

Liam, aged 10



Gyda'n gilydd rydym yn gryfach
Together we are stronger

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Cyfannol Women's Aid Mentoring Project

Information for Referrers



Who we are and what we do

Cyfannol Women's Aid runs a one-to-one mentoring project for boys aged 5-16 who have experienced domestic abuse.

The project is funded by Children in Need and runs in partnership with Chance UK.

Cyfannol Women's Aid :

- Follows all appropriate child safeguarding guidelines and practices.
- Recruits and trains trustworthy, committed and compassionate mentors.
- Carefully matches mentors with children based on their interests, location and personalities.
- Monitors and evaluates the programme, making changes when necessary.
- Works in partnership with other agencies to improve outcomes for vulnerable families.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and operates non-discriminatory policies and practices.

What does the mentoring involve?

- For boys up to the age of 11, a mentor will take the child out once a week for a year for between 2 and 4 hours.
- For boys aged between 11 and 16, the mentoring is facilitated through a small group over a 12-week period.
- Sessions could involve going to museums, going to the park, playing sport, cooking together or anything that will engage and enthuse the child.
- Limited budgets ensure meaningful, as opposed to 'treat' activities.
- Mentors work in a solution-focused way to encourage children to find their strengths and make positive changes.
- Cyfannol Women's Aid, the mentor, child and parent set 3 goals for the child to work towards.
- Mentors plan and work towards a positive ending, which is marked by a graduation ceremony.
- Parents can access support from Cyfannol Women's Aid if needed.

Our criteria

One-to-one mentoring is suitable for boys who:

- Are aged 5-16.
- Have experienced domestic abuse.
- Are in a safe environment.

Most of the boys we support have some behavioural or emotional difficulties, such as problems making friends, difficulties with concentration, aggressive behaviour at home or at school and low school attendance.

Making a referral

Before making a referral, please discuss with the child's parents/carers to get consent. Participation in the mentoring is voluntary and we will seek permission from all those with parental responsibility who are actively involved in the child's life.

The Goodman Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire must be completed by someone who knows the child well, such as a professional person, e.g a teacher or social worker. Parents will have input into this process as well.

The long-term benefits of mentoring

Mentoring can have a positive long-term effect on the behaviour of a child, by improving:

- Confidence.
- Concentration.
- Relationships with peers.
- Academic progress.
- Their understanding of the consequences of their actions.

Our most recent evaluation shows that after completing the mentoring programme:

- 100% of the children went from having significant behavioural difficulties (in the "abnormal" range) to having no significant behavioural difficulties.
- 60% of the children had no behavioural difficulties at all at the end of the intervention (well within the "normal" range).
- The averaged positive social scores showed an increase of 28% in the strengths indicators (e.g sharing toys, considerate of other people's feelings, helpful to other children if they are upset).

