

ReachOut during COVID-19 lockdown

Due to the coronavirus outbreak we had to end all our mentoring projects in early March. It was a disappointing decision to have to make, but the safety of ReachOut's young people, mentors and staff had to come first. We were on track for one of our best years ever, supporting 696 young people and having delivered over 10,500 hours of mentoring.

We know our young people will be even further disadvantaged by the consequences of the global pandemic, both during lockdown and the recovery period, so it is more important than ever before that we continue to support them and find ways to be with them during this time.

Here's what we have been doing to help our young people:

- We have been working with our schools to keep in touch with all our mentees, making sure they are safe and can reach us if need be.
- We launched an online pilot of ReachOut service so our amazing 600+ volunteer mentors can continue to support their mentees!
- We have been training our staff and volunteers in delivering mentoring online.
- We have been fundraising as best we can so that we can put in place plans to work with a projected 1000 young people from September 2020, either on line or face-to-face.

ReachOut is solvent and has healthy reserves, but we are aware that securing funding for our work could become more challenging in the near future. We also recognise that our 'old' model of one-to-one mentoring may need to change and that volunteers may be harder to come by at some point. We still want to hear from you if you're interested in helping either as a volunteer, or by making a donation. Either way, you can still be a part of changing an incredible young person's life for the better with us. If you need some inspiration on how that happens, check out our [2018/19 Impact Report here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Blackwell
CEO