

For Young People, By Young People

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‘A parent of children under 18 dies every 22 minutes in the UK. This equates to around 111 children being bereaved of a parent every day’.¹

Children and young people can feel increasingly isolated and rarely share with their peers the impact of their bereavement. The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice developed a peer mentoring service, in collaboration with bereaved young people known to the Family Support Service. Through consultation this unique and ground-breaking service would be shaped by the young people’s experience and impact of their grief.

1. CBUK: Office for National Statistics; National Records of Scotland: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency
2. Liz Thomson, Scottish Mentoring Network, Training & Enterprise Development (2012)



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This poster is part of
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Pilot Volunteer Mentoring Programme and How This Shaped the Volunteer Peer Mentoring Service



Learning from previous volunteer mentor's pilot

The importance of maintaining the existing relationship between young people and the Family Support Service while working alongside volunteer mentors

Volunteer Peer mentors as bereaved young people experience their own grief

Awareness of emotional support required for peer mentors enabling them to support mentees

Importance of peer mentors feeling safe and valued

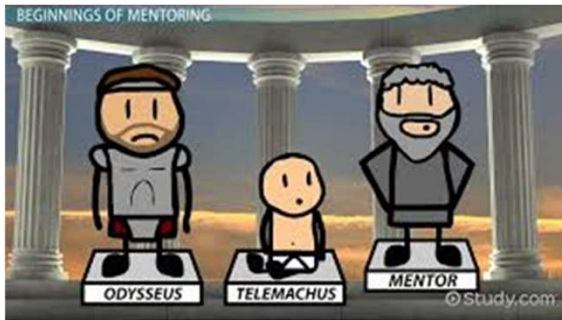
Understanding of being part of a wider hospice team, palliative care service and support

Value of peer support

Prevents bereaved children and young people feeling disenfranchised and isolated



Results and Conclusions



Historical Context

"Ulysses left his son Telemachus in the care of a wise guide, Mentor, who was entrusted with being the caretaker of the kingdom and helping the young Telemachus to think for himself and prepare for the role of future leader.

The term mentor has retained the meaning of trusted adviser and counsellor and is often used to describe someone who acts as a role model who has significant influence on career/personal development. Since the 1980's the term has been prominent in a business and policy context."

(Scottish Mentoring Network, [training](#) and enterprise development 2012: Liz Thomson) ²

"How to effectively mentor in order to protect everyone involved"

"Skills I have learned are working in a team and also communication in a team with new people"

- ✓ Ongoing review of current peer mentoring service and learning from original volunteer mentoring service
- ✓ Following training, evaluation completed informing development of service
- ✓ Debrief to ensure emotional safety following training, this approach will continue with mentors following mentor/mentee groupwork (FSS staff and vol mentor to facilitate groupwork)
- ✓ Collaborative approach in developing this service ongoing with young people and adapting where needed in response to Covid 19 guidance



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