

KIRKLEES MENTORING PROJECT

IS NUMBER 324

FINAL REPORT – MENTORS AND MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

This report is the second part of the Kirklees Mentoring Project Final Report completed in the format requested by the National Evaluators by Martin Manby – Nationwide Childrens' Research Centre.

Table 27 Questionnaire return

Questionnaire Type	Number given out	Number completed and returned
Initial Mentor Questionnaire	52	24
Final Mentor Questionnaire	38	17
Young Person's Mentoring Questionnaire	30	20
Young Person's Questionnaire (Pre and post) (self-report offending)	30	18
Self-esteem Questionnaire (Pre and post)	-	-
Other	-	-

Table 28 Attrition of volunteers

Volunteers (from 1 April 2000 to 30 September 2001)	Part Time	Full Time
Volunteers expressing some interest in mentoring eg. Asking the scheme for information on mentoring	660	
Volunteers going on to complete an application form for the scheme	125	
Volunteers attending the training courses	55	
Volunteers completing the training courses	48	

Table 29 Gender of mentor

Gender	Part Time	Full Time
Male	14	
Female	34	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 30 Age of mentor

Age	Part Time	Full Time
18-20	4	
21-25	4	
26-35	14	
36-45	13	
46-55	9	
56-65	4	
66-65	0	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 31 Marital status of mentor

Marital status	Part Time	Full Time
Single, never married	10	
Married and living with husband/wife	16	
Married and separated from husband/wife	4	
Divorced	9	
Widowed	1	
Living with partner	8	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 32 Mentors with and without children

Children	Part Time	Full Time
No children	18	
Yes, children both under and over the age of five	3	
Yes, child/children under the age of five	5	
Yes, child/children aged five and over	22	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 33 Highest educational qualification of mentor

Highest educational qualification	Part Time	Full Time
Higher degree	2	
First degree	18	
GCE/A Level	5	
GCSE/O Level	15	
Teaching or nursing qualification	4	
No qualifications	4	
Other (specify)	0	
Don't know/data not available	7	

Table 34 Mentors in paid employment

Employment status	Part Time	Full Time
Yes, mentor in full-time paid employment	27	
Yes, mentor in part-time paid employment	11	
No, mentor is not in paid employment	10	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 35 Ethnicity of mentors

Ethnicity of mentors	Part Time	Full Time
White	39	
Black or Black British	3	
Chinese or other ethnic group	0	
Asian or Asian British	6	
Mixed	0	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Table 36

Number of weeks/months between the end of mentor training and matching (first mentee)	Part Time	Full Time
Within 1 week	0	
More than 1 week, but less than 1 month	32	
Between 1 and 2 months	11	
Between 2 and 3 months	5	
Between 3 and 4 months	0	
Over 4 months	0	
Don't know/data not available	0	

Notes

- (i) The information above is provided only for mentors recruited and trained during the period 1 April 2000 to 30 September 2001.
- (ii) In the report below *italic* denotes quotations.
- (iii) During the reporting period the original project co-ordinator was in post from 1.4.00 – February 2001. The new project co-ordinator started work in November 2000 and took over full responsibility for the scheme from 1.3.01.

Mentors

This section is based on the completed initial and final mentor questionnaires.

Past Voluntary Work

- 1 14 mentors had had previous experience of voluntary work in schools (4); sports settings (3); youth clubs (3); probation (2); other mentoring schemes (2); and environmental projects (1). For two mentors this was for less than a year. For nine mentors this was for 1 – 5 years. Two mentors had had more than 10 years' experience of voluntary work.

How Volunteers Heard about the Mentoring Scheme

2. Nine mentors heard about the scheme by *word of mouth*. Five heard about the scheme from the volunteer bureau. Seven heard about the scheme through a *newspaper advert*. Other sources included a friend, a social worker, a relative and the local A – Z directory.

Reasons for interest in Mentoring Young People

- 3, Mentors' reasons for interest in the scheme are described in **Table 1** below.

Table 1
Reasons for Interest in Mentoring Young People

	Previous Experience with Young People/Life Experiences	Career Step Ladder	Help Young People	New Challenge	Empathise with Young People because of similar background	Put Psychology Degree to good Use
No	8	8	12	4	2	1

Previous Experience of Mentoring

4. Five (21%) had previous experience of mentoring. Eighteen (75%) had no previous experience. One response was unclear.

Meetings prior to Appointment

5. Mentors' contacts prior to appointment are described in **Table 2**.

Table 2
Meetings Prior to Appointments

	Programme Co-ordinator	YOT Worker	Other Potential Mentors	Established Mentors
Number	14	13	13	13

6. Six mentors had meetings with all four contacts. Eight had had meetings with three contacts. Six had had meetings with two contacts. Two mentors had met one contact and two had not met any.

First Impressions of the Scheme

7. Twenty two mentors (91.7%) commented positively on some aspect of the scheme. Out of these seven commented in very positive terms. Comments were spread evenly that the scheme was helpful to young people; that the scheme was *well organised/interesting*; and that the people running the scheme were *friendly*. The scheme provided *insight; fun; diverted young people from crime*; and was *energetic*. One volunteer said that there was *a lot to take in*; one said *will it work*; one described the scheme as *intense*.

Training Received by Mentors

8. Training received by mentors is summarised in **Table 3** below.

Table 3
Training Described by Mentors

	Child Protection Issues	Principles of Mentoring	Offending Behaviour/ Courts	Drugs and Alcohol Training	Health & Safety	Anti-Discriminatory practice	Confidentiality
Number	9	7	5	4	4	3	2

9. Seven mentors described the sessions they had attended. One referred to *role play*. One felt *very prepared through worst case scenarios*.

Adequacy of Training

10. Ten mentors (41.7%) described the training as *more than adequate*. Fourteen (58.3%) described the training as *just enough*. No mentors felt that they needed either *a little or a lot* more training.

Views on how Training might be Improved

11. Eight mentors commented. Three wished to meet trained and experienced mentors. Other requests were for the training to be *longer; more in-depth; and more support when requested*. There were individual requests for training on *drugs; and on child protection*. One mentor suggested that the session on handling mentors own experience of abuse could be dealt with more sensitively. One volunteer commented that mentors were vulnerable to allegations by disturbed young people.

Length of time before matching

12. Twenty-three mentors responded to a question about the length of time they waited before being matched with a young person. The average waiting period was 6 weeks.

Expectations about length of matchings

13. Mentors expected to be matched with young people from periods from two months to twelve months. One mentor expected to be matched for the period of up to 5 years. Four mentors said that they expected to be matched with a young person for as long as needed or until the supervision order expired, or the young person achieved independence. The average expectation, excluding the one mentor who quoted five years, was 5.5 months.

Mentors' role in choosing mentees

14. Fifteen (62.5%) mentors considered that they had had a say in choosing their mentee. The rest (Nine - 37.5%) did not. Of these, four would have liked a say and five would not have liked to be involved in choosing their mentee.

Mentors' initial views on problems and difficulties facing mentees

15. The problems and difficulties facing mentees described most frequently by mentors are summarised in **Table 4** below.

Table 4
Mentors' Initial Views on Problems and Difficulties Facing Mentees

	Family Problems	Activities Needed	Peer Pressure	Needs Support/Guidance	Anger Management	Low Self Esteem	Shy/ Isolated	School Problems	Offending Behaviour
No	15	3	4	3	2	2	3	3	2

16. Other problems and difficulties facing individual young people included *pregnancy(1); drugs(1); being in care (1)*.

How Mentors think they can help Young People

17. The main responses by mentors about how they could help young people are summarised in **Table 5** below.

Table 5
How Mentors think they can help Young People

	Listen/Talk/Trust	Support/Encourage	Find Recreational Activities	Provide Role Model	Improve Self Esteem	Guidance/Advice
Number	8	2	8	2	2	3

18. Individual mentors referred to *giving hope* (1); *find new friend for young person* (1); *focus on school problems* (1); focus on *offending behaviour* (1). One mentor was concerned that his mentee had poor concentration and that his problems were too entrenched to be optimistic about a positive outcome. Another mentor identified a young persons need for *anger management* but had concerns about not being properly trained to provide this.

Mentors' Planned Activities

19. Fifteen mentors planned recreational or sporting activities with their mentee. Three planned cultural activities (music/arts). Four planned something to eat (mainly McDonalds). Three planned to *talk*.
20. One mentor was finding his mentee *hard to engage/easily bored*. One planned *low budget activities*. One mentor referred to including *the whole family in therapy* (this would be outside the project's terms of reference).

Activities Participated In

21. Mentors described a similar range of activities here. Seventeen referred to recreational activities; three to cultural activities; and five to *talking*.

Guidance on Activities

22. Eighteen (75%) mentors said that they had been given guidance on the type of activities which were appropriate. Five (21%) had not. The kinds of activity which the young person would welcome were specified in 13 cases. Family background information was provided in one case; the mentor was advised to avoid activities involving the mentee's peers in another case.

Expectations about Frequency of Contact

23. Seventeen mentors (71%) confirmed that the scheme specified expected frequency of contact. Four said that it did not. All seventeen mentors expected to see the young person once a week and three of them expected to see their mentees rather more frequently.

First Meeting with Mentees

24. Mentors were asked to describe how their first meeting with their mentee was arranged. Fifteen specifically referred to the role of a supervising officer and five referred to the role of the scheme co-ordinator. An office based meeting was mentioned in five cases and a home visit was mentioned in four cases. One mentor described telephoning the young person and *feeling alone*.

What Took Place at the First Meeting

25. Activities included *talking* (6); *discussing plans* (5); meeting the family (8); going for something to eat (3); discussing ground rules (2). A social worker was mentioned as being

involved in three cases and in one case the mentor described a Probation Officer as having been difficult.

Other Comments / Initial Impressions

26. Five mentors recorded positive first impressions of their mentee. Two referred to *low self esteem*. Two mentors queried whether they would have enough time to tackle the issues emerging. Individual mentors referred to a young person experiencing *poor parental guidance* and, in another case needing *anger management*. One mentor took the opportunity to again refer to the scheme in very positive terms.

Established relationships, completions and breakdowns

Findings Based on Final Mentor Questionnaires

Reasons for ending of relationships

27. Most relationships came to a natural ending. In four cases young people discontinued relationships, one to spend more time with friends; and one because the mentee was pregnant. In four other cases the relationship ran its course and the decision to end the relationship was taken jointly. In one case the mentor was moving away after mentoring a young person for nine months and a fresh start was needed. One contact ended because a young person did not keep appointments. Two contacts ended when young people were sent to Young Offenders Institutions.

Length and Frequency of Contact

28. Average number of contacts/meetings for each case was 17.
29. Most mentors (12 out of 17) said they were not expected to have more than one mentee at the same time.
30. Most mentors (13 out of 17) had weekly meetings with their mentees. Two were fortnightly and one was twice a week.

Mentors' Views on Problems and Difficulties faced by Mentees (on completion of relationship)

31. The main problems and difficulties facing mentees identified by mentors on completion of the relationship are summarized in **Table 6** below.

Table 6
Main Problems Facing Young People (Completion of Mentoring)

	Family Problems	Peer Pressure	School Problems	Low Self Esteem	Lacks Interests	Drugs/Alcohol	Offending Behaviour
Number	9	3	3	3	3	3	2

Mentors' Views

32. Mentors' views cover a similar range of problems to those identified at the start of the relationship in table 4 above. Other problems included *unco-operative/withdrawn; pregnancy; dyslexia; and learning disabilities*. As regards family problems, one young person was described as coming from a *family of criminals*; in another family there were four young people each with a different father.

Action Plan in Place

33. In six cases an action plan was in place, usually involving a member of the youth offending team. One action plan focussed on improving the young person’s self esteem and another on identifying hobbies as an alternative to offending. There was no action plan in place in ten cases.

Activities Undertaken (on completion)

34. Fourteen mentors referred to recreational activities. Eight referred to going to a café/for something to eat. Four referred to *talking*; and three referred to cultural activities including *music/art*.

How have Mentors helped Mentees (completion of mentoring)

35. Mentors responses on how they had helped their mentees are summarised in **Table 7** below.

**Table 7
How Mentors have Helped Mentees**

	Improving Self Esteem	School Focussed Activities	Advice re Life Skills/Talking	Developed Interests	No re-offending/less re-offending
Number	7	5	5	3	2

36. The mentor linked to a young person with learning difficulties said that she had *added brightness to her life*. To another young person, mentoring provided *something to look forward to*. The self esteem of one young person was improved through artistic activity and drawing. Mentoring provided another young person with *someone to sound off to*. Another young person from a criminal background had taken *more baths/improved his appearance*.
37. Two mentors said that the level of their relationship with the young person was fairly superficial, not impacting on behaviour patterns.

In what ways Mentors have been unable to help (on completion)

38. Mentors were asked in what ways they felt they had been unable to help their mentees. Main responses are summarised in **Table 8** below.

**Table 8
Areas Where Mentors have been Unable to Help**

	No Impact on Family	Education	No impact on offending or anger management	Young Person unresponsive
Number	5	2	2	2

39. Two mentors responded by saying that there were no limitations on the help they had provided to their mentees.

Choice of Activities

40. Mentors reported that choice of activities was a joint decision in fourteen cases. In one case the mentor usually decided activities; and in two cases the mentee usually decided what to do.

Mentors' Contact with Significant Others

41. Mentors have had contact with mentees' friends in six cases. There had been contact with the mentees' family in sixteen cases. There had been contact with school teachers in one case.

Operation of the Scheme and Further Reflection

Ongoing Support for Mentors

42. Most support came from the scheme co-ordinator (13 cases) and from monthly support meetings (13 cases). Four mentors referred to support from the YOT and two referred to the schemes newsletter.

Mentors' Indications of Other Support Needs

43. Five mentors referred to needing more guidance from supervising officers. One of these said that the supervising officer often did not return calls. A need for more support or more information was identified by three mentors. In one case contact with social services about the background of a young person had been unhelpful .

Elements of a Successful Mentor/Mentee Relationship

44. Mentors referred to *mutual commitment to the relationship* (4); *understanding/liking young people* (4); *reliability by mentors* (3); *respect for young people* (3); *patience* (4); *listening* (3); and *flexibility* (2). Individual mentors referred to *using support available*; *parental support*; and *humour*. One mentor said *don't expect too much*.

Advice to Potential Mentors

45. Here, mentors advised against *promising too much* (2); or *expecting too much too soon* (2). Another mentor said *don't take setbacks personally*. Other mentors said *be yourself* (2); *persevere* (1); and *find joint interests* (1).
46. Asked what they had gained from the relationship with their mentee, nine mentors said that they had enjoyed the contact with the young person and that it had been rewarding to see the young person develop. Four mentors said that they had enjoyed their meetings with the young person. Two referred to *friendship*. One mentor referred to *offending behaviour improved*. Another referred to *breaking established peer contacts*.
47. One mentor was *proud to be involved with the scheme*. Another mentor had seen improved self esteem in his mentee.
48. One mentor had found it difficult to fund activities because of being unemployed. Another mentor said that the relationship had developed less than had been hoped because the young person would not open up. Another mentor wished that there had been a proper meeting to end the relationship.

Young People / Mentees

This section is based on twenty completed *Young Persons' Mentoring Questionnaires*.

49. Five of the young people were female and fifteen were male.
50. Ages of the young people were 18 (1); 16 (3); 15 (6); 14 (7); 13 (2); and 10 (1).

Referral to the Scheme

51. Eighteen young people were referred by the YOT. One was referred by a doctor; and one by a social worker.

Length of Mentoring Period

52. The average length of relationships was 4.15 months.

Choice of Mentor

53. Eighteen young people were not involved in choosing their mentor and did not wish to be involved. One young person was able to choose the mentor and another young person was not involved in the choice but would have liked to have been.

Gender of Mentor

54. Nine mentors were male and eleven were female

Mentoring a Good Idea?

55. Young people were asked whether they thought having a mentor was a good idea. All twenty (100%) responded *yes*.
56. Mentors responses to being asked why having a mentor was a good idea are summarised in **Table 9** below.

Table 9
Why having a Mentor is a Good Idea

	Recreational Activities	Talking (about issues)	Getting Help	Getting Out	Keep out of Trouble	Cultural Activities
Number	7	6	5	2	2	2

57. One young person referred to *having a choice/mentoring not part of an order*. Another young person said the mentor was *more like a friend*. Another young person said that the mentor was *a good man*. Another responded *not long enough*.

Activities most liked

58. Fifteen young people referred to recreational activities; and two referred to artistic/cultural activities. Eleven young people referred to *talking*; and five young people referred to *café/eating*.
59. The eighteen year old young woman described the mentor going out with her and her children; *she was there for me*. One young person responded *nothing*.
60. Young People were asked what they did with their Mentor. Their responses were mainly as in the previous paragraphs. One young woman said that her *mentor was a friend*. One young man said that he *just enjoyed her company*.

Activities Least Liked by Young People

61. Ten young people responded *nothing*. Five young people made no response. Activities disliked by young people were *talking about school* (2); *educational programmes* (1); and *mentor talking to my family*. Another young person did not like the mentor missing appointments.

Young Peoples Assessment of Help Received

62. Young people's responses when asked whether their mentor had helped them in any way are summarised in **Table 10** below. Sixteen (80%) of the young people responded positively.

Table 10
How Young People have been helped

	Activity/new skills/not bored	Improved behaviour (3) Keeping out of trouble (2)	Takes me Out	Listen/Talk	Help (general)
Number	6	5	3	2	2

63. One young person appreciated the mentor *not thinking I'm stupid*. Other comments included helping a young person *realise what I have done – go about things the right way*; and another young person *gets mum off my back*. One young person had received help *at a difficult time* and another young person had been *helped to look at life in general*.

Changes Resulting from Mentoring

64. Young people were asked whether they thought they had changed in any way because of their mentor. Nine responded *yes* and eleven responded *no*.

Young people who responded positively referred to *starting to trust*; and (another young person) *feeling better about me*. Other responses included *keeping out of trouble*, *better behaviour*, *enjoying oneself*. One young person had increased his knowledge of mechanics and another had become a better snooker player!

Changes in Mentor allocated to Young People

65. Just two out of the twenty young people had experienced a change of mentor. In one case this was because the mentor *didn't turn up*; and in the other case the change was because the young person *didn't like him*. Eighteen young people had not experienced a change of mentor.

Friends involved in the Scheme

66. Two young people had had friends who had taken part in the mentoring scheme. Neither of them had finished with the scheme early.

Recommendations

67. Young people were asked whether they would recommend the scheme to any of their friends. Fifteen said that they would recommend the scheme to their friends. In this context three young people referred to *activities*; three to *help*; two to *getting out*; one to *talking*; and one to *enjoying meetings*. Mentoring was described as *opening up new interests and activities*; and *helping in life and growing up*. Young people referred to *feeling better talking to someone*; and *having someone interested in me*. One young person said *you need the right sort of person*. Another described the scheme as *refreshing*.

68. The four young people who would not recommend the scheme gave no reasons for this.

Comment

69. Responses from the twenty young people were very positive. All of them thought that mentoring was a good idea. Sixteen of them thought that the mentor had been able to help them, pointing to activities/new skills learned and to improvements in behaviour and opportunities for listening and talking. Two of those who considered that they had not been helped said this was because, in one case, the young person had not known the mentor for long enough and in another because the mentee did not see the mentor often enough. Nearly half of the young people considered that they had changed because of their mentor: the half who felt they had not changed did not report any negative feedback on the scheme and perhaps the concept of change is unfamiliar to some young people. Three quarters of the group would recommend the scheme to their friends, referring to benefits they had received from the scheme. Most mentoring relationships lasted for several months and very few changes of mentors were experienced by the young people.

Offending: Young People's Perspectives; and Self-Esteem

Crime Survey for Young People involved in the scheme

70. Eighteen young people completed the Young Persons Questionnaire provided by the National Evaluators. Most young people had a history of offending prior to being referred to the YOT. The questionnaire was completed once by each young person.

71. Findings from the eighteen questionnaires about crimes admitted by young people are recorded in **Table 11** below.

Table 11
Crimes Admitted by Young People in the Scheme

Please say which of these things you've done (even if you weren't caught). Look at each of the questions (a, b, c and d) and answer for each offence.	(a) Have you ever done it? (yes/no)			(b) How old were you when you first did it? (Avg)	(c) How many times in the last year?			(d) How many times in the last 30 days?		
	1	2	3		N	M	Avg	N	M	Avg
1 Taken a car, motorbike etc. without the owner's permission	7	10	1	12.9	3		2.7	1	1	
2 Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission	10	6	2	13.5	5		1.8	1	1	
3 Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit	1	14	3	14		-			-	
4 Damaged or destroyed anything, like a phone box, windows etc. or written graffiti ('tagging')	9	6	3	10.2	3	1	2.6	1		4
5 Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine	1	14	3	14		-			-	
6 Stolen anything from any kind of shop	13	3	2	11.6	5	-	2.8		-	
7 Stolen anything from your family / friends	1	14	3	9	1		1			
8 Gone into any other house or building intending to steal anything	6	9	3	12.6	3		7.3	1	-	1
9 Stolen anything from a car	4	11	3	13.3	1		2			
10 Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag	1	13	4	14		-			-	
11 Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card etc.	2	12	4	15		-			-	
12 Bought, sold or kept anything else you thought was stolen	6	8	4	13.75	1	-	1.5	1	-	1
13 Stolen anything from anywhere else (e.g. school, youth club, workplace, building site)	5	9	4	12.6	1		8	1		4
14 Threatened someone with a weapon, or a beating (e.g. to get money or make them do something)	3	11	4	13		-		1		2
15 Carried a weapon (knife, gun etc.)	6	8	4	11.5	3		7		-	
16 Got into a fight in public somewhere (e.g. on the street, football ground, in a pub etc.)	11	4	3	11.3	7		4	3		2
17 Bought drugs for your own use	9	5	4	13.25	5	3	5	4	1	2.25
18 Sold drugs to someone else	2	12	4	16.5		-			-	
19 Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture)	2	11	5	11	1	-	1			
20 Beat up or hurt someone in your family , causing them to need medical treatment	2	13	3	15	1	-	1	1	-	1
21 Beat up or hurt someone not in your family , causing them to need medical treatment	3	11	4	13.6	3		1.6	1	-	1
22 Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment	12	4	4	11.7	7	-	2.1	7		1.75
23 Have you done anything else that could have got you into trouble? Please say what										
TOTAL	116 Mean = 6.4				54 Mean = 3.0	4	3.25(avg)	23	1	1.8

Key: 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Not answered

N = Number M = Multiple Avg = Average

Notes on Table 11

72. There were five responses by young people in Sections (c) and (d) that have been listed under multiple offences. One was a young person who referred to *loads of graffiti* offences having been committed in the last year in relation to item 4 *Damage*. The other four references to multiple offences were all in connection with item 17 *Bought drugs for own use*. In the last thirty days one young person had bought drugs for his own use on a *few* occasions; one on *fifty* occasions; and one on *three hundred and sixty* occasions. The young person who said he had bought drugs on three hundred and sixty occasions also said that he had done so on *30* occasions in the last 30 days. These five references to multiple offences have been excluded from the averages shown in relation to (c) and (d).
73. One young person refused to answer the crime survey.

Key Points

74. The total number of crimes admitted by young people was 116. The average per young person was 6.4. Crimes admitted most frequently were *stolen anything from any kind of shop* – $N = 13$; *hurt someone did not need medical treatment* – $N = 12$; *got into a fight in a public place* – $N = 11$; *passenger in car taken without owners permission* – $N = 10$; *damage* – $N = 9$; *bought drugs for own use* – $N = 9$.
75. Early onset ages were recorded for *damage*; *carried a weapon*; *got into a fight in a public place*; and *hurt someone/did not need medical treatment*. Drug offences, drink driving and car crime offences, and offences of violence, started later.
76. The number of offences admitted when young people were asked *how many times in the last year* was 54, with an average of 3.0 offences committed by the eighteen young people in this period.
77. Young people admitted committing 23 offences in the last 30 days with an average of 1.8 for each young person.

Comment

78. The number of offences admitted by young people (average – 6.4) is fairly high. The total number of offences admitted by young people in the previous year (average – 3.25) is lower; and the average number of offences in the last thirty days (average – 1.8) is also lower. The figures for (c) and (d) are much lower than those for the only other mentoring scheme known to the evaluator (Doncaster - figures already reported to the National Evaluator).
79. One partial explanation for the lower figures for crimes admitted in the last year and in the last thirty days could be the positive impact of the mentoring scheme. Equally, however, the explanation could be found in other interventions carried out by the YOT. Nonetheless, these figures give grounds for cautious optimism about the beneficial impact of the scheme on offending behaviour.
80. This rather encouraging picture is reinforced by the positive descriptions by young people about their experience of mentoring in the previous section of this report. Several young people referred to the beneficial impact of the scheme on their behaviour, including offending behaviour.

Drug Use

As part of the young persons' questionnaire, the eighteen young people responded to questions about drug use. Findings are in **table 12** below.

Table 12

The following questions are about alcohol and drug use. Remember that your answers are totally confidential, nobody except the researcher will see your answers. Please look at the list of drugs below and say:

1. Which of these have you ever taken, even if it was a long time ago?
2. How old were you when you first tried it?
3. If you have ever taken any of them, have you taken it in the last 12 months?
4. If you have taken it in the last month, on how many days in the last month have you taken it?

Drug	Have you ever taken it? (write yes or no)			How old were you when you first tried it? (leave blank if you haven't taken it)	How many days have you taken it in the last 30 days? (leave blank if you haven't taken it)	Have you taken it in the last year (yes or no)	
	Y	N	NR			Y	N
Amphetamine (speed, whizz)	3	12	3	N = 2 Avg 12.5	-	2	
Cannabis (weed, grass, hash)	11	5	2	N = 10 Avg 12.5	N = 3 Avg 11	8	
Cocaine powder or crack	2	13	3	N = 1 Avg 15	-	2	
Ecstasy ('E')	2	12	4	N = 2 Avg 13.5	-	2	1
Heroin (smack)	4	12	2	N = 3 Avg 14	N = 1 Avg 10	4	
LSD (acid, trips) or magic mushrooms	1	13	4	N = 1 Avg 12	-	0	1
Solvents (Glues, gas, aerosols)	3	12	3	N = 3 Avg 12.3	-	1	2
Tobacco	13	3	2	N = 11 Avg 10.2	N = 8 Avg 34.1 <i>One respondent said 100 days!</i>	10	0
Alcohol	15	1	2	N = 13 Avg 11.7	N = 8 Avg 5	10	2
Other (please specify)							

Key: Y = Yes N = No NR = No Response

During the last week, how much did you spend on :-

Drugs (not including alcohol or tobacco)	Alcohol	Tobacco
£40 - £50 = 1	£20 = 1	Up to £5 = 5
£10 = 1	£15 = 1	£10 = 1
£ 5 = 1		£15 - £25 = 4
N = 3	N = 2	N = 9

	YES	NO	DO NOT USE DRUGS
If you use drugs, do you have a favourite drug you use?	6	5	6
If you use drugs, do you ever do so alone?	3	9	6
Do you use drugs because you're bored, lonely or anxious?	7	5	6
If you use drugs, do you think a lot about drugs and drug use?	2	10	6
Do you plan your day to make sure you can use drugs?	1	11	6
Do you need to use more and more drugs to get high?	0	12	6
Do you feel irritable or anxious if you don't use drugs?	0	12	6
Do you miss your favourite drug if you don't use it for a while?	4	8	6

Key Points

81. Fifteen young people used alcohol; thirteen used tobacco; and eleven used cannabis. Four young people used heroin and three used solvents. Numbers using other substances/drugs were lower. The average onset age for tobacco was 10.2 years; for alcohol was 11.7; for solvents, 12.3; and for cannabis and amphetamine, 12.5.
82. Responses indicate that six young people were habitual (daily) users of tobacco. Three young people admitted using alcohol ten times in the last thirty days. Two young people admitted using cannabis frequently, ten and twenty times respectively in the last thirty days. One young person admitted using heroin ten times in the last thirty days, indicating a serious level of dependence.
83. One young person was spending £40/£50 per week on drugs. Two young people were spending more than £15 pounds per week on alcohol. Four young people were spending £15 or more per week on tobacco.

Comment

84. Tobacco use started earliest for this group of respondents and was more likely to be habitual than alcohol use or cannabis use. Most young people used alcohol and nearly as many used tobacco. There was one serious heroin user in the group. There is relatively little reference to drug use in the qualitative data reported above. The level of alcohol and drug use for Kirklees is rather lower than the levels known to the evaluator for two other YOT's (Doncaster and Wakefield)

Impact of Mentoring on Self Esteem

85. Final questionnaires completed by mentors refer to specific improvements in self esteem for seven out of seventeen young people. This proportion (7 out of 17) probably understates the number of young people whose self-esteem mentors believed to have improved. For example, nine mentors had enjoyed the contact with young people and found them rewarding to be with. Other qualitative data in the final mentors questionnaire points to improvements in this area. No specific questionnaires on self-esteem have been completed. Improvements in self esteem are considered by the evaluator likely to have been achieved for more than half of the young people involved in the mentoring scheme.

Mentoring Staff / Referral Agencies

86. Qualitative data from supervising officers in the YOT was included in the first part of this report submitted in December 2001.

Impact on YJB's aims (including impact on offending behaviour)

87. The Kirklees mentoring project is based in and co-located with the Kirklees YOT. The majority of referrals come from the YOT. The programme co-ordinator has very close contact with YOT staff in both South Kirklees and North Kirklees. The clear intention of the scheme is to contribute towards preventing and reducing offending.
87. Data on levels of offending behaviour is included in the Final Mentors' Questionnaires and in the Young Persons' Mentoring Questionnaires. Both of these include positive references to the mentoring scheme impacting on levels of offending behaviour and other problematic behaviour. Mentors, in a small number of cases, acknowledged clearly that young people have continued to offend while being mentored.
88. Evidence about the overall impact of the scheme on offending/re-offending behaviour is generally encouraging. Positive indicators include the mentor and mentee being involved in an action plan; and continuing close links with the young person's supervising officer, as well as the scheme co-ordinator.
89. In one case a mentor acknowledged clearly that a young person had continued to re-offend, conforming to his family's norms, although the level of re-offending had reduced and the young person had made other improvements e.g. in his appearance. There are clearly cases where mentoring on its own cannot stop young people offending. Attention is drawn to the observation in the first part of this report (submitted in December) where mentors commented that mentoring impacted positively on young peoples' self-esteem and that, as a consequence, they were less likely to offend. A number of mentors indicated in their final questionnaires that closer contact with supervising officers would be welcome. The scheme co-ordinator is continuing to firm up direct contact between mentors and supervising officers and this should help to increase the impact of the scheme on offending behaviour.
90. As mentioned above, the level of crime admitted by young people in the last thirty days was fairly low and this reflects positively on the mentoring scheme and on other interventions by the YOT.

Impact on the scheme's aims

91. The scheme's aims include reducing youth crime and other risk behaviours; supporting young people in terms of education and employment and developing positive interests; helping young people develop positive relationships and achieve goals; and enabling members of the community to become involved in working with young people.

92. The scheme's impact on youth crime and risk behaviours has been summarised above. Evidence from the Young Peoples' Mentoring Questionnaires confirmed the positive impact on the scheme in helping young people to develop useful interests. In a small number of cases mentors acknowledge that they had not been able to impact directly on school related issues. There is positive evidence that the mentoring scheme enabled young people to establish positive relationships with adults, lasting for extended periods for many of them. The scheme has demonstrably provided opportunities for members of the community to become positively involved in working with young people. There is evidence that wherever mentoring relationships have become firmly established, young people have gained benefits from the experience.

Martin Manby
14.01.02