

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust are collaborating with Enfield Youth Services on a brand new and exciting reading mentoring programme for young people.

Background and overview:

The Enfield Youth Council met with Peter Nathan and Lucy Nutt to discuss what campaigns/projects could be created by the Enfield Youth Council to support/improve Education in Enfield. Peter Nathan and Lucy Nutt expressed that a current concern in education is Reading and that many children and young people are not able to access education because they are not at their age-related level. Statistics show that around a quarter of all children left primary school in 2022 unable to read well (Gov.uk, 2022). These children are at a disadvantage because they are unable to access their secondary education properly, and this has lifelong consequences. Good literacy at an early age improves academic achievement and this leads to greater opportunities of all kinds in adulthood (OECD, 2002). Unfortunately, the statistics on UK reading ability are stark:

- One in four children left primary school in 2022 unable to read to the required standard (Gov.uk, 2022).
- The National Literacy Trust estimated that in 2021, there were 7.1 million functionally illiterate adults in the United Kingdom, who will likely have difficulty reading the front page of a broadsheet newspaper, understanding the instructions on a medicine bottle, sitting a theory test for a driver's licence, or succeeding in writing a job application (National Trust, 2021).
- The attainment of year 6 pupils who took assessments in summer 2023 showed the results that 73% of pupils met the expected standard in reading, which is a decrease from 75% in 2022 (Gov.uk, 2023). This shows a continuous decline in reading attainment.

Further to these findings, Enfield Youth Council created an incentive to support the issues identified.

In Collaboration with North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, Enfield Youth Council aim to recruit, train, nurture and provide young people aged (16- 18), who live or go to school in Enfield with the relevant skills and knowledge to become a **reading mentor**.

Reading Mentor Q&A

What is a reading mentor?

As a trained Reading Mentor, you will be conducting one to one reading sessions with young people aged between 11-13, who are in their transition period from year 6 to year 7, that would like support with their reading. This programme will be piloted in two Enfield libraries Enfield Town Library and Edmonton Green Library in Summer 2024.

What type of training will I receive before I become a reading mentor?

We value our mentors and want to ensure that you are comfortable and confident before commencing your reading mentor journey, therefore we have created a 3-day training programme, to enhance your current skills, while providing you with specific peer mentoring skills.

Some of the areas you will cover doing your training sessions are :

- The roles and responsibilities of a mentor
- Barriers to mentoring.
- Why young people need mentors.
- Boundaries/safeguarding
- Support/Guidance that is available for you during and after your training.
- The importance of a reading mentor

Please note reading mentors will be required to attend all 3 training sessions.

When are the training dates?

- Tuesday 28th May 2024 10:00 – 15:00
- Wednesday 29th May 2024 10:00 -15:00
- Wednesday 12th June 2024 17:30 -18:30

Location: Ponders End Youth Centre, 129 South St, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 4PX

Once you have completed your training sessions, you will receive an accreditation – AQA unit award in Youth Mentoring at Level 2 (Please see link for further details)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/unit-details?unit=116831>

What will my time commitment be?

To begin with, there will be **one session a week, for 6 - 12 weeks. Each reading session will be an hour long.** Once this period has been completed the mentors are able to decide if they would like to continue.

What happens after I complete my first 6-week block?

After this period, there will be an assessment. Once assessed, If the children/young people require more sessions and the reading mentor is happy to continue, they can continue mentoring the same young person for an additional 6-week period.

or

If a reading mentor completes their first 6-week block and is happy to continue being a reading mentor, they will be assigned to a new young person for the next 6 weeks.

How many young people will I mentor during my time as a reading mentor?

Each mentor will have one mentee.

Where will my mentoring sessions take place?

Depending on your location you can meet your mentee at one of the following libraries – Edmonton Green library or Enfield Town Library.

Supervision will be provided by the library (librarians) to ensure safeguarding is in place.

Dates and Timelines

Applications Open	Monday April 15th 2024
Applications Close	Friday 3 rd May 2024 5pm
Successful applicants notified	Monday 13 th May 2024
Reading Mentor Training Dates	Tuesday 28 th May 2024 – 10:00am -15:00pm Wednesday 29 th May 2024 – 10:00am –15:00pm Wednesday 12 th June - 17:30 -18:30
Reading Mentor Matched with Mentee	Summer 2024