

Mentee Case Study

About us

We are a community-based group providing support and information to young people in care. We have been set up by a few volunteers who wanted to do something to support young people at the interface areas of Belfast.

The need within our community

Through our work alongside young people in Belfast, we identified health inequalities that specifically affected our community:

- Increased suicide rate among our community of young people.
- High numbers of young people not in education or work.
- Lack of confidence, purpose and choice for many young people.

Why we signed up to the Elevate Community Mentoring and Grants Programme

We applied for the Elevate Mentoring Programme because of the networking opportunities. We wanted to build our network of connections to see how we might be able to link in with other groups in our area that had a similar focus on the Social Determinants of Health. The mentoring support was also helpful as we needed to redesign our approach in light of Covid-19.

Our experience of the Programme

The Elevate Mentoring Programme was an incredible opportunity for our organisation, and we found it very beneficial. Through the programme we were able to learn from other community groups and to share ideas and challenges with a supportive group of like-minded people. Every organisation came to the group sessions with an openness to engage with and learn from the experiences of others. We all recognised the need to focus on the social issues facing individuals and communities as well as the medical ones. We wanted to utilise the community development knowledge of our mentor in the one to one sessions. Their support and guidance ensured our decisions around the re-designing of our services were continually involving the young people we work alongside. We know this focus has enabled our organisation to stay relevant as we changed how we engaged with our community.





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The Elevate team were incredibly supportive and accessible. They directed us to some really useful resources around community engagement and the training they provided on health inequalities was insightful and ignited good discussion with the other mentee groups.

The programme ultimately highlighted the need to better understand the root causes that sit behind inequality. As we listened to others sharing their stories, we were further inspired in our belief that people coming together really do have the power to challenge long-standing issues of inequality within communities.

