**Freelance Self-Employed Youth Mentor**

The Youth Mentor role is designed to deliver short-term, tailored, one-to-one support to young people aged 11–17 years, within a structured programme lasting approximately 6–9 weeks. The service is an early intervention initiative aimed at responding to the emotional, social, and developmental needs of young people, and operates within a holistic support model. All referrals are processed through Belfast Family Support Hubs.

The role requires individuals who can work both independently and collaboratively within a small team. The Youth Mentor will be responsible for making initial contact with referred families, conducting holistic and collaborative assessments, and co-creating short-term personal development plans with the young person and their family.

Support is delivered through restorative and person-centred practices, and may include mediation, confidence building, life skills development, emotional support, and linking young people with wider educational, community, and support services. The mentor will also liaise with schools, families, statutory bodies, and other organisations to ensure wraparound support, attending multidisciplinary meetings and advocating on behalf of the young person when needed.

**Key Responsibilities**

* Managing and responding to referrals
* Initiating contact and building positive, trusting relationships with young people and their families
* Conducting collaborative assessments and developing tailored support plans
* Supporting a small caseload of clients, providing direct, time-limited interventions aimed at addressing emotional, social, educational, or behavioural needs
* Using outcome-based tools such as Outcomes Stars to track progress
* Facilitating restorative interventions to prevent or repair relational breakdowns and support emotional wellbeing
* Signposting and referring service users to additional resources when further needs are identified
* Engaging with other professionals and services to ensure joined-up support
* Keeping accurate and timely case notes, records, and reports in line with GDPR and confidentiality requirements
* Participating in service evaluations, contributing data, reports, case studies, and verbal feedback to inform ongoing service improvement
* Conducting regular risk assessments and working within safeguarding and child protection protocols

**Qualifications and Experience**

* A recognised qualification at Level 3 or above in Youth Work, Social Work, Community Development, Counselling, Education, Psychology, or a related field
* Experience working directly with young people in a supportive, mentoring, educational, or community-based setting
**or**
* At least 2 years’ experience in youth work, family support, education, or community-based services
* Experience working directly with young people in a supportive, mentoring, educational, or community-based setting

**Skills and Competencies**

* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with young people and families in a respectful, strengths-based manner
* A commitment to the holistic development of young people, with a clear understanding of trauma-informed, restorative, and person-centred approaches
* Flexibility in work pattern to meet the needs of the young person and their family
* Strong understanding of safeguarding principles and child protection practices
* Training or experience in restorative practices, trauma-informed approaches, or brief intervention models
* Experience using outcome-based tools (e.g., Outcomes Star) to measure progress
* Excellent organisational skills
* Knowledge of local support services and referral pathways
* Mental Health First Aid or relevant emotional wellbeing training
* Ability to travel independently across the community to deliver support (this may include access to a car with appropriate business insurance or suitable alternative transport arrangements)

**Remuneration**

This is a freelance, self-employed position. A competitive hourly rate is offered.

**Who This Role Suits**

This role is suited to individuals who are passionate about early intervention, value relationship-based practice, and are committed to helping young people overcome challenges and achieve positive personal goals within a brief but impactful timeframe.