



works to reduce crime and its impact on people and communities

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NIACRO
(Derry City)



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Vision Statement

NIACRO'S vision is to be acknowledged as making a unique contribution to the development of a society in which the rights and needs of everyone, including offenders, are equally respected.



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Strategic Aims

- Working in Communities
- ***Working with Children and Young People who offend***
- Working with offenders and ex-prisoners
- Working with prisoners, their families and children
- Influencing policy and practice
- Applying resources effectively



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- NIACRO founded in 1971
- NIACRO – NGO Criminal Justice Agency
- Established to provide practical assistance to people coming out of prison



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Mentoring Project



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What Is Mentoring?

“Where trained volunteers from the community offer support and friendship to young people...

Role models who can encourage young people in difficulties to make positive changes in their lives such as regular school attendance, taking part in Further education and training and staying out of trouble with the law”

(Youth Justice Board – Catching Them Early)

Mentoring will provide the young person with a supportive adult who will help them set and achieve goals.



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Project Aim

To recruit and train volunteers from the local community, to act as mentors for children and young people aged 10 -17 years, who are at risk of offending/ re-offending



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Project Objectives

- To provide continuity to a young person who has experienced offending behaviour or is at risk of offending
- To give the young person the opportunity to develop a friendship with an adult independent of the system
- To promote the young person's social, emotional and cultural development
- To encourage the young person to exercise their rights and to participate in decision making



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Criteria for Referrals

- Young people who have been in custody
- Young people who are subject to statutory supervision orders by Probation
- Young people who are participating in Youth Conferencing
- Young people referred by other agencies because of their offending behaviour
(e.g. Youth Justice Agency, Community Services, PSNI, Education Welfare Officers etc.,)



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Catchment Areas

EHSSB

North & West Belfast, South & East Belfast, Down & Lisburn,
North Down & Ards – *Kelly Cochrane*

NHSSB

Home First, Causeway Trust – Michelle Ring

WHSSB

Foyle Trust, Lakeland & Sperrin Trust – *Denise Mac Dermott*
Senior Practitioner

SHSSB

Newry & Mourne, Craigavon and Banbridge, Dungannon &
Armagh – *Diane Johnstone*



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The Mentoring Role

- Meet with the young person once a week (2–3 hours)
- Engage in process of shared learning through participating in pro social activities with the young person
- Commitment of one year to the Mentoring Project
- Participate in training relevant to the volunteer mentor role
- Receive individual supervision (Bi Monthly)
- Attend volunteer peer support meetings held quarterly
- Complete and return contact sheets after each meeting



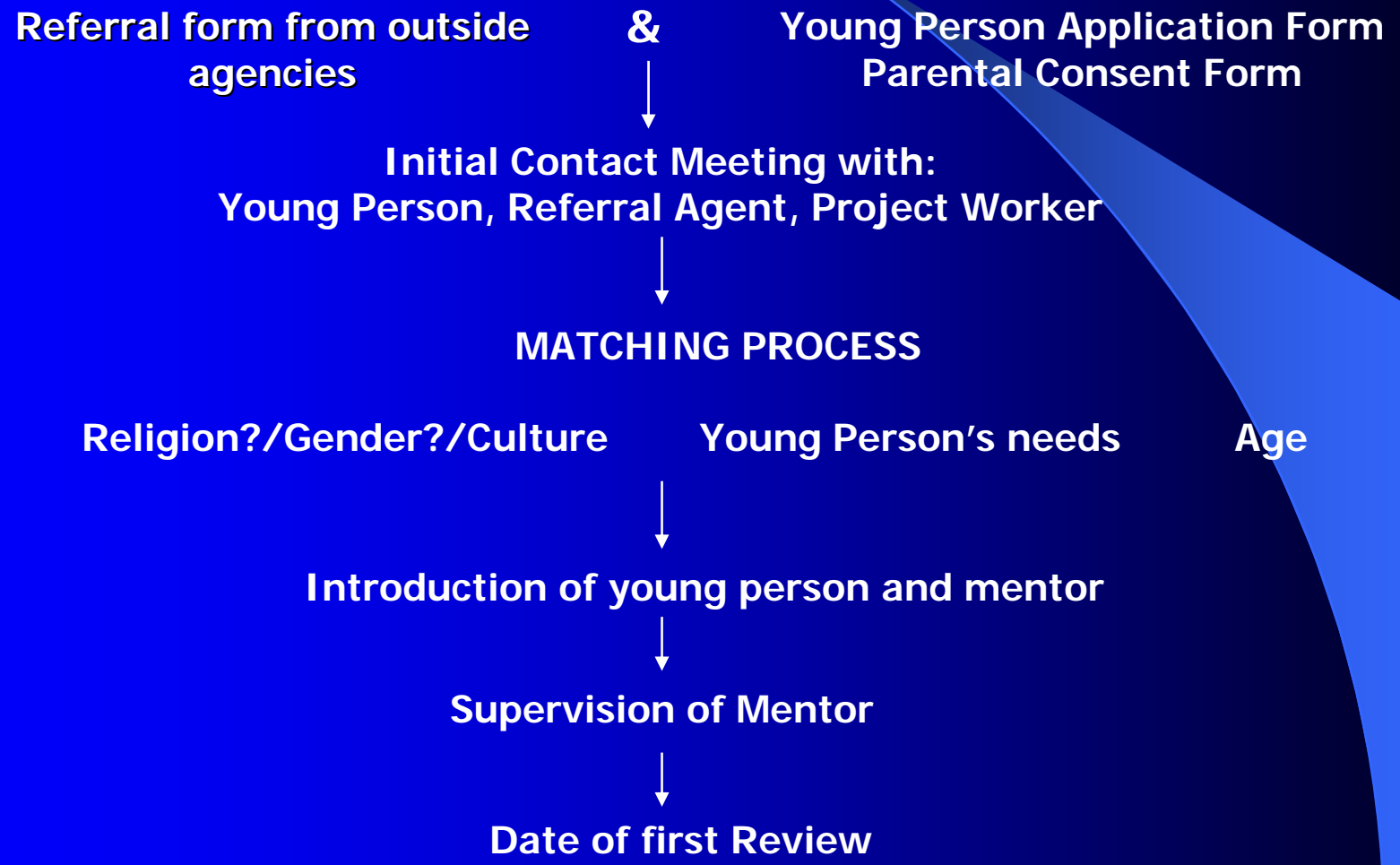
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Recruitment, Selection and Training

- Application Form (experience, interests, attitudes to young people)
- POCVA check
- Suitability interview
- Core training (values and attitudes, communicating with young people, child protection, Youth Justice System, confidentiality, goal setting, boundaries, issues facing young people, and Introduction to Youth Conferencing, self harm awareness)
- In service training/induction
- Individual supervision/peer support meetings
- Open door policy



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Project Development

Referral Breakdown

- 247 referrals – 208 matched (85%)
- 192 Male – 55 Female referrals
- 30% 10 –13 years 8% aged 17 years
- “Core” age group for mentoring 10 –15 years
- 47% Catholic 53% Protestant
- Only 61 young people in mainstream educational establishments
- Over 200 Action Plans produced



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Project Development

Volunteer Mentor Profile

- 68% aged 20-30, 14% over 40
- 25% Male, 75% Female
- 33% Protestant, 67% Catholic
- 3,984 hours worked by volunteers



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Evaluation and Monitoring

- Mentoring database operational – evaluating outcomes and effectiveness of service delivery
- External evaluation June 2005 CENI
- Internal monitoring - quarterly reports, review meetings, case closures, budgets expenditure etc.,
- Uptake on accessible courses and completion rates – personal development, developing social skills, access to educational and training opportunities.



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What We Hope To Achieve For The Young Person

- Positive role model
- Informed choices
- Improved self-esteem
- Access to opportunities
- Re-engage with community
- Promote sense of personal/social responsibility
- Experience of setting and achieving goals
- Improved relationships



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What We Hope To Achieve For The Mentor

- Develop new skills
- Gain a recognised qualification (VDA, C.V.W.B)
- Sense of achievement
- Promote personal development
- Make a difference in a young person's life
- Gain a better understanding of the issues facing young people



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