

MENTORING MATTERS



INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate a decade of MCR Pathways, we also celebrate an incredible start to the 2017/18 academic year!

The Inspiring City Award announced what we've known all along - that YOU MAKE GLASGOW! The 2017 People Make Glasgow award is very fitting recognition of the incredible motivation, commitment and resilience shown by our young people, mentors and partners for the last 10 years.

As you know, we won't stop until every single disadvantaged young person in the city gets the support they need and absolutely deserve from MCR. This month, Glasgow City Council announced that they want our Young Glasgow Talent programme embedded in every secondary in the city over the next 4 months.

With more MCR schools, our need for more mentors is greater than ever. Your continued support in helping us reach even more Glaswegians who can help is appreciated and very much valued.

If every single person reading this shared our newsletter with just one more person, that would ensure over 1200 additional young people will get the support and encouragement they need!

NEWS & MILESTONES

A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

We had an amazing year in 2016/17. More young people than ever before were supported through their secondary education and we saw some young people head off to an inspiring pathway after school.

More than 80% of MCR's mentored young people reached a positive destination when they were ready to leave school at summer!

That incredible achievement is complete testament to your support!

Here are just a few examples of the feedback we received this year from our School Leavers...

"My mentor encourages me a lot and kept me focussed. She was strict with me at times but she was nice and let me know what I needed to do to go to university,"
Catherine, 2017 St Roch's School Leaver.

"I feel more confident about myself and my school work after speaking with and seeing my mentor. She has given me help with trying to find out what I want to do when I leave school without pressuring me,"
Abbi, 2017
Drumchapel School Leaver.

"My child was an Ambassador for the YGT programme, which he took great pride in. He loved meeting new people and sharing his life experiences across the city and encouraging young people to get involved with YGT. Thank you to his Mentor also who was so inspirational to helping William succeed in going to University,"
Ellen, Parent of 2017
Lochend School Leaver.

"Caitlin really liked the mentor she had and she liked the Pathways Coordinator. She said they were both really nice and they always helped her whenever she needed it. She's done really well in S6 and I think the programme has helped to keep her focussed and driven,"
Joan, Parent of 2017
St Roch's School Leaver.

NEXT STEPS

That's not the end of our Leavers' MCR journey. Our Next Steps programme keeps us in close contact with our young people. Our Facebook group, exclusively for our leavers, means that we're available daily to offer support and advice whenever they need our help. From housing questions, to finance concerns, we're always there for them. We're also monitoring their destination status, making sure that they stick to that positive, exciting post-school pathway.

MCR IS GROWING CITY-WIDE!

In October Glasgow City Council announced that they want every single secondary school in the city to benefit from MCR's Young Glasgow Talent programme. Here's the new city wide expansion plan...



“The partnership between MCR Pathways and the council over the last 10 years has had an incredible impact on the lives of the young people who’ve been mentored or been a part of the talent tasters. The fact that we can now take this successful model into the rest of our secondary schools and make a difference in the lives of every young person in need is great news for all involved – the schools and of course the young people. However, it does mean that our efforts to attract mentors to the programme is now crucial so as to meet the demand that we have identified across the city,”

Councillor Chris Cunningham, City Convener for Education, Skills & Early Years.

Our latest figures show we start the 2017/18 academic year with:



OUR NEW PATHWAYS COORDINATORS

We can't wait to work with our new schools! Over the last few months we've been out meeting the new headteachers and school links. Ensuring they know all about the support MCR will offer their most vulnerable youngsters, and for them to let MCR know what will benefit their school. Some of the schools have been introduced to their shiny new PCs. Here are some of them!

“

I can't wait to build relationships with my young people. I wanted to work at MCR to be part of a community that is committed to improving the lives of some of our most disadvantaged young people in Glasgow.

”

Lizzie Doonan



“

Becoming a mentor has been life changing for me and I feel privileged to be involved in this programme. I want to help encourage others to take advantage of the opportunities out there.

”

Alan Hume



Fiona McLean

“

I enjoy working with our young people and helping them discuss their in/ outside school lives and choices. I am based at my own old secondary school, Castlemilk High School.

”

It's such an exciting time for MCR as we welcome our new schools on board and continue to ensure the care experienced and vulnerable young people across our current 15 schools get the support they so desperately need and deserve.

‘The MCR programme has had a very positive impact on the many young people who have participated in the programme. One of the great benefits of it is that young people have time with their mentors. One-to-one attention can sometimes be difficult to find in a busy school. The Talent Tasters have been matched well to the interest of the young people

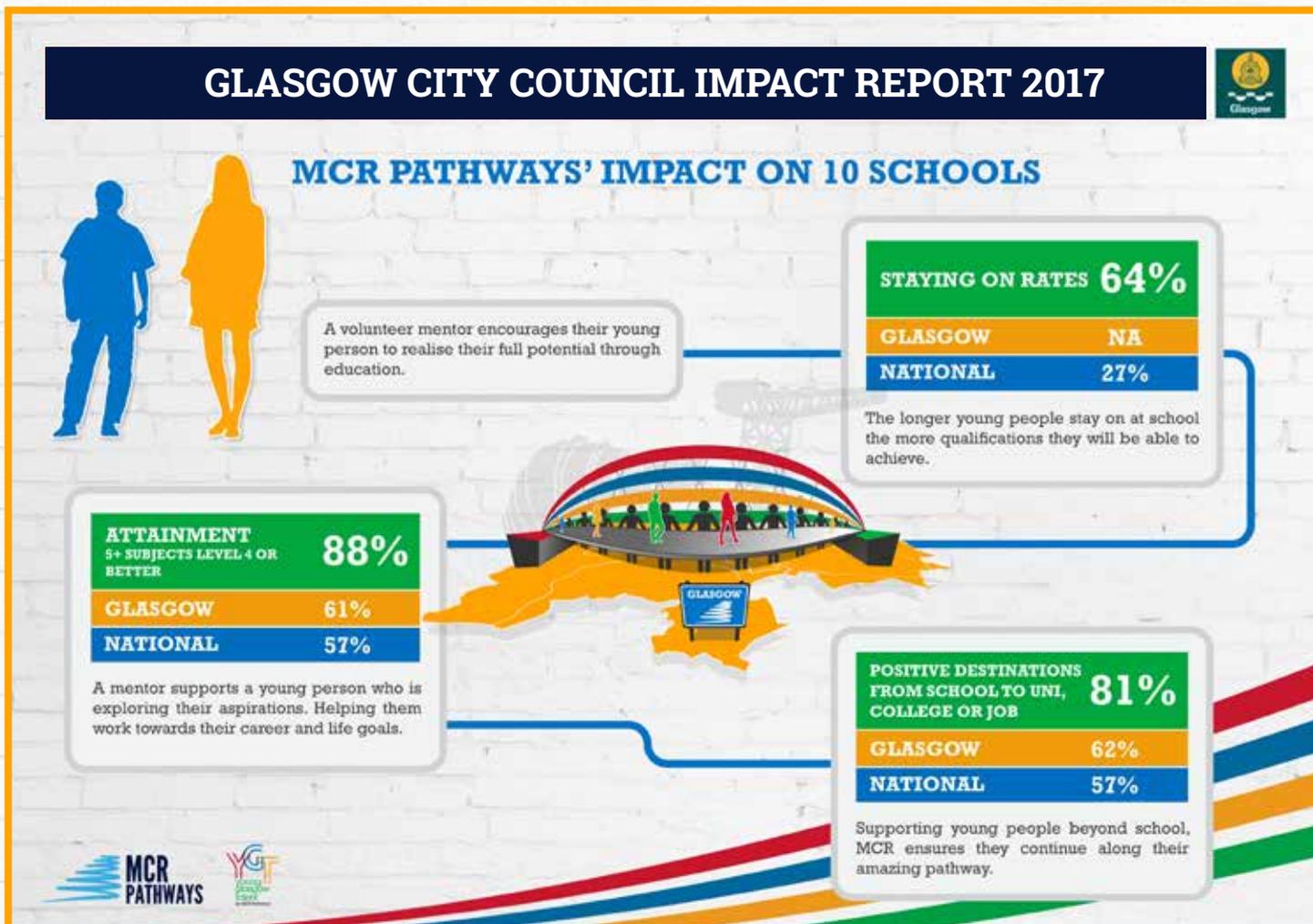
and have helped to broaden their horizons as well as developing their confidence. One of the main benefits of the programme is having the MCR co-coordinator in the school. There is very little additional work needed to be done by school staff. I would highly recommend other schools to participate in the programme,’

Tricia, School Link, Springburn.

COUNCIL'S 2017 IMPACT REPORTS

Relationship mentoring in Glasgow schools is undoubtedly closing the attainment gap in the city and helping some of our most vulnerable pupils.

The announcement from the Council to take our Young Glasgow Talent programme into all schools across the city follows the Council's Impact Report produced in July. It shows that, when a young person is mentored and enjoys our Talent Taster opportunities, they stay on at school longer, they achieve better results and more of them reach positive destinations when they leave school:



It revealed that more secondary pupils than ever before are achieving better results in literacy and numeracy and staying on rates in this group of young people is at an all-time high. Critically, reversing decades of poor national outcomes for young people in the care system, record numbers of Glasgow's young people are progressing directly to college, university and employment, thanks to MCR.

What stands out in the report is the comments from the young people, the mentors, families and school staff. Every participant benefits and the longer the programme runs in each school the greater the impact. St Andrew's Secondary, where MCR Pathways first started in 2007 best illustrates the extent, where 100% of mentored young people progressed to college, university or employment in contrast to a starting position of 31%.

PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW AWARD

The Impact Report is testament to the efforts of MCR mentors, partners, schools and supporters. It's also of course recognition of the inspiring young people who work so hard to change their lives for the better...

To win the 2017 People Make Glasgow award in our 10th year could not have been more fitting! The award recognises those individuals or businesses that have – gone the extra mile to make a genuine difference to the lives of people in the city; or have made a significant and positive contribution to enhancing Glasgow's reputation.

Council Leader Susan Aitken joins Iain MacRitchie (CEO), Michelle Downes (Project Manager), Claire O'Hara (Programme Development Manager), Liam (former MCR young person and now MCR mentor), Donna Cunningham (Project Director) and Inspiring City Awards host and STV presenter Jennifer Reoch.

"We were absolutely delighted to win the prestigious People Make Glasgow award. It's a fitting testament to the huge number of committed people involved as we approach 10 years of MCR. 10 years of supporting Glasgow's most vulnerable young people. 10 years of dedicated, inspiring Glaswegians giving so much to help those that need it. This is fantastic recognition for every single person involved and with it our heartfelt thanks"

Iain MacRitchie, MCR Founder and CEO.



We can't wait to transform even more young lives with you over the next ten years!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee Mornings November / December

This year's coffee mornings will be kicking off in November. The perfect chance for you to catch up with fellow mentors, share your own experiences with others and ask some questions too. Dates and locations will be in our fortnightly Pathways Pulse emails.

St Mungo's Lecture 23 November

Following Iain's St Mungo award earlier in the year, MCR will take over the City Chambers in a celebratory event. Keep your eyes peeled for your invite!

Talent Taster Event 17 January

We'll be kicking the year off with a celebration of our Talent Taster programme and looking forward to the tranche ahead. It's a celebration of our incredible partners who open their doors every year and spark aspirations through inspiration!

RECENT EVENTS

October 2017

Kelvingrove Artwork Unveiling

Thank you to all of the mentors, partners and supporters who could make it along to support our young people's event. It was an amazing evening and we were thrilled to unveil the artwork which they created with renowned Scottish artist Gerard M. Burns!



August 2017

Premiere of "Bridges That Transform" Film

Thank you to all who joined us for our première, a film which brings to life our inspiring young people and mentors MCR stories and journeys.

“I think the film shows that every young person has a different story, that we always need a helping hand. Some are going through emotional support situations, through a difficult time or school stuff.

To anyone thinking about mentoring, I'll say what I said in the film – just do it!”
Simone, Young Person who shares her story in the Bridges That Transform film.

“The whole evening was really enjoyable. It was lovely to see the relationship between mentors and mentees and there was a sense of success and pride in the audience. And the YGT Ambassadors were just fantastic! The new film is reassuring in that it shows that anyone can be a mentor. If you want to spend 50 minutes with a young person in school, then you'll be a good mentor. You just need to be yourself,”
Lynne Innes, Mentor.

MENTOR RECRUITMENT

New Marketing Materials

The “Bridges That Transform” film is the theme of our latest marketing campaign and we’re thrilled to share it with you. Huge thanks go to our friends Bees Nees and Filtr, for sharing incredible stories in an inspiring way.



Our “Bridges That Transform” series focuses on the journeys of young people including Alfonso, Simone, and Stephanie and their mentors Craig, Mairi and Douglas. Filmed at iconic locations across Glasgow, they share their completely unique MCR journeys. Alfonso says he “felt it was almost over” for him before he met Craig. Mairi gave Simone the confidence to see an amazing future open ahead. And Douglas was there to help Stephanie focus on her skills and talents - ahead of her changing the world one day!

For the mentors in the film, the MCR journey is just as life-changing and just as emotional.

These new films and social media clips have been made to raise awareness of MCR. To show that anyone can do it - you just have to want to help! To give people the confidence to say “I can!”

PLEASE SHARE OUR STORIES WITH ALL YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES!



By sharing our content you’ll help us reach so many more mentors and supporters, who will in turn ensure more young people across Glasgow get the help and support they need and deserve.

MCR BAGS FOR LIFE!

Seen our new bags for life? We would LOVE to see them used in the most creative way and in the most scenic places! Send your MCR Bags For Life pics to deborah.quinn@mcrpathways.org or share them on our social media channels



These are pictures of MCR Mentor Aimie’s bags for life at the top of a Munro called Meall nan Ceapraichean in Ullapool!

TALENT TASTERS

We're thrilled to kick off our Talent Tasters this month! Our first tranche of the 2017/18 Tasters takes place throughout October and November, and the second tranche is in February and March. Tasters are available to young people from S3/S4 and ensure an invaluable opportunity to explore the world of work. To spark vital aspirations and for a young person to discover that "I can do this!" moment.

55 Talent Taster partners

311 Taster spaces have been booked so far by our young people

Across **16** genre selections
(from the Creative Industries, to Trades, to Information Technology)

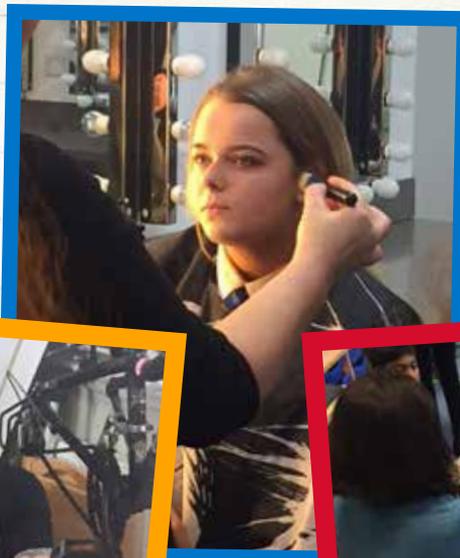
“This is a good experience to build my confidence”

Young person on Hilton taster ”

“The young people are a credit to their schools, their coordinators and MCR in general”

Christina Mackay, BeYonder Ltd ”

We're so grateful to our Taster partners for their phenomenal, inspired support.



THANK YOU!

Rosshall Secondary

The lovely team of young people at Rosshall are planning a project called - The 12 weeks of Christmas.

From the first week of October, for every week leading up to Christmas the young people, staff, parents and community members of Rosshall will donate non-perishable food items, sweets, toiletries and small gifts. They'll be collected by the team and distributed to a local charity/church/food bank before Christmas for it to be put to good use.

The young people are really excited about helping others and helping local families. MCR Pathways S3 pupils who are working towards their DOFE Bronze award will be leading the project weekly and organising the donations.

Please get involved by buying an extra tin of peas, soup, whatever it might be. Raid your cupboards and if you have the time please hand it into the school. Donations are rolling in already and the collection is looking good!



Whitehill Secondary

One of Scotland's leading contemporary artists, Andrew Hay, unveiled three works inspired by his childhood visits to East End cinemas in the 1940s and 1950s at Glasgow's Dennistoun Library.

Whitehill secondary school sixth year students James & Joseph attended the launch. James, who is studying Higher Art said: "I think it's good to have art displayed in your local library as it's a chance for young people to see and be influenced by the art and it encourages other people to try it. It's really interesting. I like the way the tenements in the painting show what

the environment is like. I think it makes art feel real that someone like Andrew Hay, who is from the area, has his work displayed here."

Joseph added: "I'm interested in art, so I think putting art into the library helps people to appreciate the local community, and could help to create an interest for other people to study art."

The mentors identified these young people's passion for art and they are working together on a portfolio.



OUR PARTNERS

Organisations across Glasgow continue to play a vital role in supporting staff to mentor our city's young people.



We're so grateful to those organisations who continue to encourage and support staff to mentor. We're always delighted to welcome new friends on board. Recently, we've developed a partnership with CMS (formerly Dundas and Wilson), a large law firm based in Glasgow.

Our partnership with Glasgow City Council also continues to grow. In early September, MCR joined the 'Working Together for Glasgow' event at City Chambers with a Keynote speech presented by Iain MacRithchie, Donna Cunningham and Liam Murray.

Kathleen Reynolds, GCC Land and Environmental Services said "It was really moving to hear from Liam about how he had directly benefited from being part of the programme in his youth to now become a mentor himself."



MCR Pathways have also featured strongly in GCC's communications in recent months with case studies, event news and a feature on the personal development benefits of mentoring through their 'Insider' magazine and Connect Intranet. We hope this continues to generate interest in mentoring from all departments and areas of the Council.

Springburn Academy

I'm Grace's Pathways Coordinator. Grace joined the YGT programme. She is quite quirky and has her own amazing unique personality. I could see from the outset that she had so much potential, but was lacking in confidence and not really getting involved in activities that could help her develop both academically and socially.

I firstly referred Grace for the Strathclyde Summer experience and a taster at Clyde College. She attended both and enjoyed the experience. I then put Grace forward for the Royal Conservatoire Summer school as she is interested in acting and I thought this could help develop her confidence more. Grace did really well and took part in the performance at

the end of the week. I am very proud of Grace as she has had some challenges in her past and this for her is a major step forward in her development.

She since attended a rehearsal with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and MCR for the Kelvingrove event. She has also signed up for two Talent Tasters as well as a 6 week course with Glasgow School of Art after school. Grace has recently been matched with a mentor too, Karen and although they have only met a handful of times Grace seems confident and relaxed with Karen and is slowly coming out of her shell and developing her confidence and skills. It's a joy to see her doing so well!



OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Don't forget you can get involved and provide support to MCR Pathways' YGT Programme in ways other than mentoring. Our newly appointed Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mandy, is currently coordinating expressions of interest from our wonderful supporting community of volunteers.

There are many ways to get involved. Some of our inspiring volunteers are currently supporting us with our Talent Tasters, offering us skills from their work backgrounds and visiting us at our new Anderston Hub to help us on day to day activities.



If you'd like to discuss all of the skills you have and all of our volunteer requirements, please contact Mandy: mandy.choi@mcrpathways.org