

How can I get more information?

If you would like more information please contact:

Le Chéile Mentoring Project

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Become a
Mentor
...Change a life



Le Chéile works to achieve a number of aims:

1. To provide a Mentoring Service to children and parents engaged with Young Person's Probation nationally
2. To provide a Mentoring Service which promotes positive change and aims to improve the decision making and overall well-being of our service users
3. To recruit and train teams of volunteer Mentors to act in the role of supportive adult, role model, advisor and friend
4. To ensure that every person who volunteers as a Mentor with Le Chéile is supported, valued and recognised in their role
5. To compliment the role of Young Person's Probation in addressing offending behaviour in line with legislative requirements under the Mentor (Family Support) Order

What is a Mentor?

A Le Chéile Mentor is a volunteer aged 20 and over who acts as a role model, advisor and friend to a young person (Mentee).

What is involved?

Le Chéile Mentors are asked to give 3 hours a week for one year. They are also asked to attend case supervision and ongoing training.

What would I do with my Mentee?

Mentors meet with their young people (Mentees) every week for a few hours and they engage in various activities with the young person such as getting involved in sports, going to the cinema, talking, getting involved in courses etc.

For the first 6- 8 weeks the Mentor and Mentee focus on getting to know each other through social activities.

After this they meet with the co-ordinator and try to set some goals such as helping the young person build their self-esteem, working on literacy, anger management, drugs and alcohol issues, etc.

Matching Mentors and Mentees

An important part in ensuring the success of the project and making sure the project is enjoyable for the Mentor and Mentee is in the initial match.

For this reason, the co-ordinator will carry out a complete profile of yourself to determine which young person you may be best suited to. Matching takes account of geographical location, interests, time available etc.

Recruitment procedure

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, we will ask you to complete an application form, which should be returned to the office. At this point you

may be asked to attend a suitability interview where we will give you more information on becoming a Mentor. Due to the nature of the work, all Mentors are required to have a Garda background check which will be completed by us.

In addition Mentors need to give details of 2 people who can act as referees.

What training is provided?

All Mentors must complete the Mentor training course before becoming a Mentor. The training course usually runs over a number of Saturdays and/or over a few evenings, and covers topics such as understanding Mentoring, building a relationship, values and attitudes, why young people get involved in crime, policies and procedures etc.

What support is offered?

All Mentors receive fortnightly telephone contact from the co-ordinator and monthly case supervision. This is done on a small group basis where a number of Mentors and the co-ordinator meet to discuss the various cases in confidence.

In addition Mentors attend regular and ongoing training. Le Chéile offers a volunteer recognition programme where Mentors are awarded for their commitment to the programme.

