Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

26 April 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been working with Herman Stewart, and Every Child Needs a Mentor for some months now, with students in Sandwell Local Authority.

The students we have worked with and continue to work with, are some of the most challenging. Their issues are varied; some family trauma, some having problems with crime, some anxiety, some have just 'lost their way' in life and need help and guidance to get themselves back on track. As with all young people, no two cases are ever the same.

The service and support we have received from Herman and his team at ECNM are beyond comparison. Despite the very varied needs of the young people, they have all grown in confidence and maturity, always encouraged to see that the path they are on currently, is not necessarily the way they want to be heading. The team allow the young person to find this for themselves and by doing this, they take ownership of their situation and are a big part of changing things for themselves.

All of the students have realised that there have been issues in their lives that they have never faced, or been confident enough to talk about to anyone else. Through the patient and nurturing approach of ECNM, they have found their voice and now feel that they own their lives again and have a real influence on the path that they decide to take.

I really cannot thank Herman and his team enough, for helping our young people to understand that there is someone who will listen without judging, there is someone who will help them to find themselves and most importantly, they have a voice and someone who not only listens but hear what they are saying and what they need.

Attendance & Prosecution Service

Education Skills and Employment Directorate
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Alongside working with the students, ECNM is excellent at working with the families. If certain situations do not change within the family environment, then with all the will in the world and support for the youngster, life will go back to how it was. All of the parents who have also worked with ECNM have said that they have been given ‘coping mechanisms’ and strategies to deal with situations that have arisen at home. They feel more confident in talking to their children about their wishes and feelings, but also being able to set rules and boundaries, without conflict.

I look forward to working with ECNM a great deal in the future, as I know they enrich the lives of the young people and their families.

Yours Sincerely,



Louise Morris
Manager, Children Missing in Education and Alternative Provision

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