Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: IL0/MW/FA

Tel: 0121 569 8115

Date: 22 January 2019

Dear Colleague

Re: Every Child Needs a Mentor

As independent chair of the Sandwell Fair Access Panel, after hearing very positive reviews, we commissioned Every Child Needs a Mentor to develop a package of mentoring across four schools.

The client group consisted of young people who potentially were at risk of exclusion due to increasingly challenging behaviour and declining engagement in school leading to their underachievement academically. From their initial engagement Herman and his mentoring team were extremely thorough in their preparation of the programme.

Herman met with myself and leaders in each school to discuss each individual youngster, their needs and the needs of each institution. Each school was visited to appreciate the unique ethos and culture of each institution and to gather a profile of each of the prospective mentees.

Engagement with each mentee's family was crucial to the success of the project and again no stone was left unturned in efforts to engage them, in person wherever possible or by telephone or online depending upon individual circumstance. The programme aimed to re-engage each student, by positively influencing their decision making and offering an alternative view of education and the significant adults working with them in school.

Throughout the programme schools' unanimously reported better relationships were emerging in their cohorts, attendance improved as did attitudes to school work and authority in general. Many parents also reported on better relationships at home and greater ambition noted in their children.

Due to funding constraints the project was time limited, but undoubtedly Herman and his team made a very significant impact on the cohort of youngsters in each school as well as securing more positive home/ school relationships.

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I would not hesitate to recommend Every Child Needs a Mentor and commend their work to you. The greatest testament to their work is the fact that many individual schools have engaged ECNM to continue their positive work in their schools.

Yours sincerely,

M Wilkes

Mike Wilkes
Independent Chair to Fair Access Panels

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