

SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES



BELFAST MENTORING ITS YOUNG PEOPLE

COLLABORATIVE MENTORING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING

CO-MENT (Collaborative Mentoring) is a project delivered through GEMS NI, which is a social enterprise and local integrated labour market intermediary, and Belfast City Council. CO-MENT is designed to help young people who have left school and do not have the necessary support to make their transition into the labour market or to undertake training.

With the support of a personal mentor each young person designs their own programme, based on different development areas, and comes up with their own weekly timetable. They have at least three hours of one-to-one support every week from their personal mentor, and have the opportunity to undertake a placement with an employer in the Belfast area.

The mentors come from a variety of training, community, and voluntary organisations. In total these mentors have delivered over 4,000 hours of personalised mentoring to 131 young people, helping them to create their own individual development plans. A total of 47 young people involved in the project have gone on to secure either employment or a place in further education.

The scheme has transformed the lives of many of the young people involved, enhancing their skills and changing their perspectives of the future. The model is now being adapted for young people with serious and long-term illness such as cancer, as well as for disillusioned graduates who can not find employment.

