

Work so far

In the last three months we have been very busy. The group of mentors and staff met together once a month and developed the training we deliver. We have also revised the workbook and, with help from a graphic design company, a new workbook was produced and printed in time for our first school presentation on February 16th.

Please keep an eye on the webpage for further updates and developments!

We have now delivered four training sessions and had six more planned. Teams of three mentors went to different groups and they all took an active part in

delivering the sessions. Each session lasts four hours so, with breaks, is a whole school day. We handed out the new workbooks at the end of each session.



Isobel, 'I really liked the students at St Francis. They were interested in what we were saying. They were willing to learn and got involved in our puzzles and quiz. We helped a new mentor as well so now she can work with us at our schools. I really enjoyed designing the cover logo on the workbook, making it like the flowers and the thorns to protect us.'

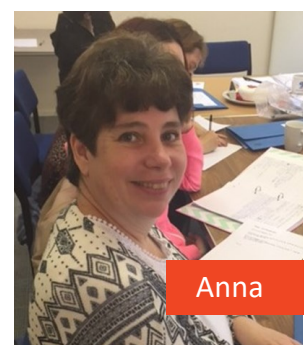
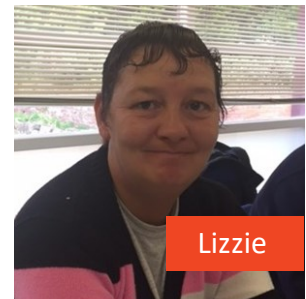
Sara, 'I am a Rose mentor as I like helping people. I am a Rose mentor as I want to raise the risks of sexual exploitation. I am a Rose mentor as its very educational.'

We use power point slides, films, games and activities to make sure all participants are involved. Each group we work with usually has twelve people plus support staff.

Lizzie, 'I like being a mentor for the Rose project as to me it means helping people with disabilities keep themselves safe at all times, online and outside. It helps people be aware of the dangers, change the way they think, how they are online and what to look out for so it can be stopped before it has started.'

Four mentors, Laila, Lizzie, Anna and Ricky Roo along with Dani, Bridget and Vickie gave a presentation to the trustees of Reach on the project and what we hope to achieve. The presentation was very well received. The Trustees asked lots of questions and said they had found out a lot about the project

Anna, 'I enjoy being a Rose mentor, going into different schools and meeting different people with disabilities.'





We held our second steering group meeting in March and Dr Deborah Kitson from the Ann Craft Trust joined us. She is carrying out the independent evaluation of the project and has provided us with a pre and post questionnaire for the people we train so we can measure our impact.

We did a presentation at the autism café at LORIC in Lincoln. One of the people attending has starred in 'The Undateables'. She was very interested in what we are doing and talked about how difficult it is to meet suitable partners.

We have a new member of the staff team, Kay Greenwell. She will be supporting the team in their delivery and helping with the development of training. Kay has a background in working in inclusion in secondary and further education, tutoring and supporting students with complex needs to reach beyond expectations and to find their voice. She already works

for Reach and has been supporting some of the mentors and so knew the value of this work. She is excited to join the team.

As a team we have started preparing our training for workers and thinking about what staff need to know in order to help people they support stay safe from sexual exploitation.

We were well on target to Reach all our goals. We have had a yearly follow up meeting with our funders, The Samworth Foundation, and they are pleased with everything we had achieved.

However at the end of March we had to rethink our plans because of **Covid 19**.

What we are doing since Covid 19 happened...

We had to cancel the training sessions we had not yet delivered. We hope to go to them next year. We also had to cancel the follow up meetings for the sessions we had already delivered.

As a team, we can no longer get together for our monthly meetings. We have a closed Facebook group for mentors to keep in touch and share ideas. Not all mentors use Facebook but project staff are going to make sure information is shared to all the team.

Kay will be regularly phoning all the mentors and checking on their welfare. Any concerns will be reported and recorded and we will put support in place.

We are working with the design company to make an interactive version of the workbook. We are looking at ways to put training sessions online. The team are looking at new resources that are available that we could use in the training.

We are thinking about new ways to share our messages about staying safe, especially when people might be spending more time online and at risk of being groomed.

Our next newsletter will be in July and hopefully by then we will have clearer plans for year two of the project.

ROSE Stands for.....

Reach – supports everyone working on the project

Out – we are taking a message out to people

Stop – we want to stop bad things happening

Exploitation – when somebody else badly to get what they want

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dani Noquet, ROSE Project Manager on 01636 919946.