

We hope everyone is enjoying summer!

It seems unbelievable but we are now in our third and final year of the project. We are considering ways to keep the work going and looking at how to develop new areas of work based on the skills of the mentors. The mentors have recently taken part in individual reviews and have been commenting on what being a mentor means to them. Comments include:

“Very happy that I am gaining some kind of experience and getting more confidence.”

“Feel proud of myself knowing I've achieved something.”

“It makes me feel good and that I could be helping someone stay safe from sexual exploitation.”

We are pleased to announce that the group of mentors who joined the mentor team when the ROSE project started (some mentors had already worked on the Hope project) have been awarded the AQA award, 'An Introduction to Peer Education 108266'. We have just submitted a proposal to AQA for a new award which we have called 'Service User Participation In increasing awareness of Sexual Exploitation to people with LD' and we are gathering evidence in anticipation of its acceptance.



The project team has been busy since the last newsletter (April). We have continued with taking bookings and delivering our online training for professionals. We have now reached 95% of our target delivery to this group. We have been receiving some very positive comments:

“I found it useful having the mentors there to discuss their experiences.”

“It was presented very well and the people who had learning disabilities did a great presentation throughout the meeting.”

“It was really useful to have Charlotte and Lizzie to talk about their experiences as mentors within the schools and other settings they have visited. Lizzie's short film about her friend also showed a real experience and how devastating the outcome of offline SE can be.”

Following our carers' survey (see April newsletter) we put together an information session for family carers, which takes account of the survey responses. The ROSE team talk through and practice delivery at their monthly Zoom meetings. The family carer session can be delivered online or face to face. We have delivered two sessions so far. Those taking part joined in with

discussions and asked the ROSE team lots of questions. Feedback includes:

“The information session was delivered extremely well with opportunity to talk about personal experiences for our adults with LD.”

We have again been delivering online sessions to people with learning disabilities. These have been done with learners from Portland College. We have more planned with them for autumn. We also did training for Portland College staff. We have built on our links with Portland College and in July Kay, Lizzie and Chelsea had a stand about the Rose project at the college 'Our Day' event. Staff and students visited the ROSE stall and some useful contacts were made.



We are hoping that we can start working with groups in face-to-face settings from September. We have already arranged some deliveries to people who go to Umbrella, Derby for October and December. We will be contacting schools, colleges and day services to arrange to deliver training in these settings (some of these had to be cancelled when Covid began).



We continue to work with the Reach Communications team and the project webpage now includes mentor blogs, comments from people receiving training and national news and updates that are relevant to our work. This month, Anna discusses in her blog how she has maintained her emotional well being during the pandemic. reachuk.org/projects/rose

Several of the mentors have been involved in the national research on Learning Disability and Covid. They have just done another round of telephone interviews. Sara says that being a mentor has given her the confidence to take part in this research. <https://ltccovid.org/2021/03/29/new-report-the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-people-with-learning-disabilities>

In June the whole ROSE team was able to meet together face to face for a reunion and a picnic in Sconce Park, Newark. This was a lovely afternoon that everyone enjoyed, with lots of catching up and fun.



At our team meeting in September we are again meeting face-to-face and will spend the day revising and updating our face-to-face training for people with learning disabilities.

The project funding will end in June 2022 and we are thinking about how we can sustain and develop the work that we do. The mentors are keen to continue to share their important message.

Once again we wish you a happy summer and look forward to working with more groups in the autumn.

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 some body uses somebody else badly to get what they want