

Reach Mentoring Limited
(A company limited by guarantee, not having share capital)

DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

The directors present their report prepared in accordance with Charities SORP (effective January 2015) with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024, also prepared in accordance with the aforementioned Statement of Recommended Practice and FRS102.

Reach Mentoring cannot exist without the invaluable oversight and guidance from a dedicated Board of Directors who meet regularly to support and shape the vision and direction of Reach. The directors, who are also trustees of the charity, at the date of this report and those who served during the financial year together with the dates of any changes, are set out on page 1 and are listed below.

Directors

The directors who served during the year are as follows:

Rhoda Kerr (resigned 20 February 2024)
Sonya Rowe
Raymond Pollock
Claire Kerr
Kathryn Cunningham (resigned 30 April 2024)
Colin Cooper (resigned 7 June 2024)
John Pickering
Rhonda Baird (appointed 20 February 2024)
Richard Preston (appointed 20 February 2024)
James Todd (appointed 10 September 2024)
Ryan Mawhinney (appointed 10 September 2024)

In accordance with the Articles of Association the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Introduction

Reach Mentoring is about journeying alongside young people throughout life's path and all of its twists and turns, highs and lows, the celebrations and disappointments it brings. The reality is that our mentors are going into school, sitting alongside and chatting to young people who are currently struggling through difficult life circumstances. This can look like:

- Actively listening to the young person who has such low self esteem and confidence, that they are struggling to see a future for themselves
- A young person struggling to come to school due to feeling anxious about the day ahead
- The grief of losing a family member
- Feeling so low that they feel life isn't worth living any more
- Continually wrestling with how they think they look and feel about themselves and the impact this is having on their everyday life
- The need to create a safe space in which a young person can feel comfortable to disclose their current situation and the impact it is having.

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DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Objectives and Activities

Mission Statement

"Compelled by the love of God, Reach exists to enable young people to unleash their full potential. It creates positive, informing and empowering mentoring relationships while working in partnership with schools, churches and relevant agencies."

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the company is to provide one-to-one mentoring relationships.

Achievements and Performance

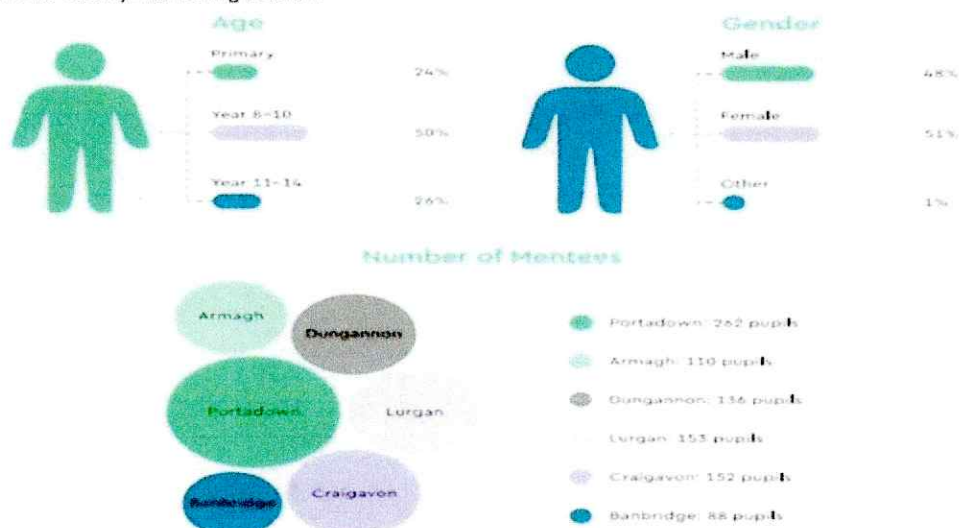
Reach Mentoring Ltd continue to focus on its Aims and objectives which are to provide mentoring relationships that...

1. Encourage young people to explore healthy lifestyle choices.
2. Support the educational experience of young people.
3. Care pastorally for young people.
4. Enthuse young people to play a positive role in their community.
5. Create space for young people to explore Christianity and develop in leadership.

Overview of Activities

Over this past year the vision and purpose of Reach Mentoring has remained steadfast, partnering with schools to support young people facing difficult life circumstances. Demand and need for the service continues to grow which is evident through the large volume of critical incidents and safeguarding issues being disclosed to our staff team on a weekly basis.

Throughout the 2023/24 Academic Year Reach Mentoring partnered with 46 schools to deliver consistent mentoring sessions to 901 young people. These were 901 young people who didn't have to face the challenges of life alone, but had the consistent, caring support of a significant adult in the form of a weekly mentoring session.



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DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Impact

When a pupil is referred onto the programme, we collect baseline assessments of the young person's social, emotional and behavioural wellbeing on a termly basis. Our data collection provides a snapshot insight into the mentee's self-perception of their well-being. One of the main assessment tools we use is 'Goodwin's SDQ', which is a globally recognised questionnaire used for the early identification of behavioural and/or emotional symptoms in children and adolescents. These insights identify the young person's strengths, difficulties and the impact it may have on the child's sphere of influence. Additionally, each mentee has the opportunity to reflect on how they feel their needs are being met on a holistic level. This assessment tool is based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and it helps identify whether the child's physiological needs are met. Collecting these data on a regular basis throughout the year allows us to analyse the progression a mentee has made as we journey with them and thus the impact the programme may have had. Key statistics from the past academic year is as follows:

Armagh:

- **110** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring, **83%** had a greater sense of belonging and **60%** felt more known.

Banbridge:

- **88** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring, **67%** felt more optimistic about their future and **100%** felt they were putting more effort into things.

Craigavon:

- **152** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring, **72%** felt more optimistic about their future and **80%** had a greater sense of belonging.

Dungannon:

- **136** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring, **73%** felt more optimistic about their future and **83%** felt happier about their identity.

Lurgan:

- **153** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring **99%** said that Reach was helpful and **84%** felt that their problems had gotten better since starting with Reach Mentoring.

Portadown:

- **262** young people received at least one mentoring session.
- Of those pupils who previously scored low at the start of mentoring **80%** had a greater sense of belonging and **79%** felt happier about their identity.

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DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Operational Overview

Mentoring helps to unleash potential and delivery takes place in three main ways:

1. Our mentoring programme is run by area coordinators who work in multiple schools in one area. Along with trained volunteer mentors, they work alongside partner schools to create a trusted space where young people can meet and talk about what is going on in their life on a weekly basis.
2. Through our Connect Programme, The Reach Connect Worker is a regular presence in the school community (ranging from half day to a full week). This role offers adaptive and flexible support to address pressing issues and support the school's pastoral care team.
3. Personal Development facilitates one moment with many young people. Whether through film or workshops, Reach Mentoring aims to give pupils the supportive space and opportunity to engage their bodies, hearts and minds in topics relevant to them. For primary schools we provide "My Story in Colour", a workshop carried out in primary schools in June each year. The workshop is based around a relevant topic, with a general focus on resilience. Pupils move through a carousel of stations, beginning with a story written by the Reach team and a creative activity. Each young person will then have the opportunity to talk with a trained mentor during a mini-mentoring session. For post-primary schools we provide a library of videos and session plans, available on YouTube, focusing on relevant topics appropriate for a range of ages. Topics include *Change*, *Managing Emotions*, *Self-Awareness* and *Body Image*.

Highlights

There have been a number of occasions throughout 2024 where we have taken the time to pause and celebrate our tenth birthday as a charity. We have been so thankful as an organisation to be able to celebrate the past ten years and the role Reach Mentoring has played in working alongside our local schools to provide support for so many young people. The celebrations culminated in a Gala Ball Celebration at the 18th October.

Throughout this year a total of 90 volunteer spaces were filled by trained members of the local communities in which Reach operates, in turn multiplying the impact and scale of support offered. Growth has been evident this year with the total number of pupils engaging with the service rising from 513 to 901 young people, a rise of 43%.

Financial Review

The statement of financial activities which shows the results of the company is set out on page 12. The reported surplus for the year is £5,341 (2023: deficit £8,431). The directors continually review all funding opportunities to maximise the incoming resources for the charity.

Reserves Policy

The company's policy is to achieve a level of free reserves which matches the needs of the company both at the current time and the foreseeable future. Free reserves are those unrestricted reserves which are available for general use.

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DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Reach Mentoring Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. It is recognised as a charity by HMRC under the reference NI00361 and by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland under the reference NIC102128.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped achieve the charity purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Future Outlook

Whilst the need and demand for the service of Reach Mentoring continues to grow, it is important that this is done in a structurally sustainable manner. Currently the focus of Reach Mentoring is to grow and sustain the organisation within the areas where delivery is already taking place. This will be through the continual robust focus on funding, sustainability and delivery.

A model has been established that can be transferred and embraced within any local community and as an organisation will aim to mobilise growth within a sustainable structure and timeline.

Special Provisions relating to small companies

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the Board

S Rowe

Chair

Date: 14th May 2025



J Pickering

Director

Date: 14th May 2025