

Information Sheet for the Evaluation of Building Futures

Information for Schools

What is the research and why is it taking place?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is undertaking research on behalf of the Youth Futures Foundation (YFF) to explore the effectiveness and outcomes of Building Futures – an early intervention mentoring programme for secondary school pupils who may be at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

As part of this research, NFER would like to speak with staff from schools that have previously participated in the Building Futures programme to understand their experiences. We would also like to speak with staff from schools that have not participated in Building Futures but have experience of working with organisations that deliver mentoring programmes, to gather their perspectives and insights.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in the research.

What activities will the research involve?

The research will involve taking part in an online one-to-one interview lasting approximately 30 minutes, at a date and time most convenient to you between **July and September 2026**.

As a thank you for taking part, you will receive a £30 voucher.

We recognise that not all interviewees will have had direct experience of the Building Futures programme. In these cases, we will ask participants to draw on their experience of similar mentoring programmes or to reflect on these topics hypothetically from a school perspective.

The interview may explore the following topics:

- How young people at risk of becoming NEET are identified and selected to participate in mentoring programmes.
- How mentoring programmes are delivered in schools and the role of schools in supporting delivery.
- Young people's experiences of mentoring programmes, including factors that influence engagement and participation.
- Factors that help or hinder successful mentoring programmes.

- How mentoring programmes fit alongside other support available to young people, both in and out of school.
- Which aspects of mentoring programmes drive positive outcomes, and for whom, under what circumstances, and at what stages.
- Views on potential future evaluation approaches for the Building Futures programme, including factors that would make participation feasible for schools and any support that may be needed.

Not all topics will be relevant to every participant, and questions will be adapted to reflect your level of involvement in the programme.

Data protection

NFER is the data controller for this research and is responsible for deciding how and why personal data is processed.

Participation is entirely voluntary. Before taking part, participants will be provided with information about the study, how their information will be used, and their rights as research participants.

NFER operates in accordance with UK data protection legislation, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Information collected will be used only for the purposes of this research.

NFER will produce an internal report for YFF, summarising key findings from the interviews. All information will be reported anonymously, and no individual participant or school will be identified in any reporting.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years of experience conducting research and evaluation with schools and other education stakeholders. For more information please visit: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/>

Where can I go for more information about this evaluation?

More details about the research, including a link to this information sheet and an associated privacy notice, can be found https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/wdknnvp3/yfbe-privacy-notice_scoping-phase.pdf

If you have any questions about the research, please contact: Andrew Smith, NFER Project Leader, a.smith@nfer.ac.uk

Thank you very much for your support with this research.