

Information Sheet for the Evaluation of Building Futures

Information for programme delivery organisations and mentors

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 delivery organisations and mentors involved in the delivery of the Building Futures programme, both past and present, 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 one hour for delivery organisation staff and 45 minutes for mentors, at a date and time convenient to you between July and September 2026.

We recognise that participants will have varying levels of experience and involvement with the Building Futures programme. Depending on your experience, we may ask about delivery of the programme to date, plans and expectations for future delivery, or experience of delivering similar mentoring programmes.

The interview may explore the following topics:

- The purpose of the Building Futures programme and the young people it aims to support.
- How young people are identified, recruited and engaged in mentoring.
- The delivery of mentoring and the roles of mentors, delivery organisations and schools.
- The experiences and outcomes of mentoring for young people.
- Factors affecting successful delivery and the wider support available to young people.
- 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 role, experience and 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. 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.

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 will produce an internal report for YFF, summarising key findings from the interviews. Your name will not be included in our reporting; however the names of delivery organisations will be used. As only a small number of delivery organisations are participating, we cannot guarantee anonymity as it may be possible for YFF and/or a delivery organisation to identify you from the information you provide. If you would like to share information during your interview for contextual understanding that you would prefer not to be included in any reporting, you can request that this information is excluded at the time of the interview.

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.