



What will a mentor know about me?

We will share details including your name, the nature of your offence(s), the type of order or licence you are on, the kind of support you need, and information about any risk issues relating to your offending with your mentor. It is then up to you how much information you would like to share with your mentor about you.

How do I get a mentor?

If you would like to work with a mentor, please speak to your Offender Manager. Your Offender Manager can refer you to the scheme, so the Mentor Coordinator can assess your suitability. If you are suitable to work with a mentor, we will try and match you to a mentor as soon as possible.



What can a Volunteer Mentor do for me?



Education, Training & Employment:

Doing the right things, for the right people, at the right time



Volunteer Mentors

Who are the mentors?

All of our mentors working with Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (SWM CRC) are volunteers. Our volunteers come from all walks of life; some are employed, some students, and some are ex-offenders themselves. All of our mentors have been trained, and some have a qualification in mentoring.

What help can a mentor give?

A mentor can help you with a range of things in relation to education, training and employment.

This might include:

- assisting with CV's
- giving advice on disclosing your conviction to an employer
- helping you fill in application forms
- working with you to help you decide what you would like to do in relation to education, training and employment
- helping you plan journeys to college/interviews/etc
- coming with you to a skills for life session
- keeping you motivated
- being someone you can talk to

What are the benefits of having a mentor?

- An independent person to talk to informally
- Someone to listen to you
- Someone who understands your needs
- A confidential, trusting and equal relationship
- Increased self awareness and confidence
- Realise and develop your potential
- Better employability
- A way to take more control of your life
- A chance to explore the things you like to do and are good at.
- Understanding the way organisations work
- Strategies to overcome setbacks and obstacles
- Help to identify and set, small achievable steps towards achieving your goals.

When and where would I meet my mentor?

Your mentor will meet you at one of your supervision sessions for your first appointment. After that, you will agree with your mentor when and where you will meet them, although it is usually at a probation office.

Appointments are available during normal office hours, and some mentors may be able to meet you during extended office hours (up to 7pm).

Currently, mentors are not available over the weekend.

What happens at an appointment with my mentor?

At your first appointment with them, your mentor will talk to you about the kind of support you want from them. They will then draw up an action plan with you, to plan out what you want to achieve whilst you are working with them. You will meet with your mentor each week, and they will motivate and encourage you to achieve the goals you set yourself on your action plan. They can also assist you with some tasks, like filling in application forms, or refer you to other agencies for more specialised support.

Can I meet my mentor at home?

No, mentors can only meet you at a probation office, or public area like a library or cafe.

How will I contact my mentor?

Your mentor will arrange appointments with you at your sessions. If you are not able to attend an appointment, or need to change it for any reason, you will need to contact your Offender Manager, who will contact the Mentor Coordinator to arrange an alternative appointment.