



MY ENDS

ZAWA

VRU

MAYOR OF LONDON
VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

 **Innovation
Unit**

ABOUT MYENDS

The MyEnds programme is all about supporting local groups to make our communities safer, and providing young people with better opportunities right in their neighbourhood.

MyEnds puts communities at the centre of tackling violence affecting young people, by giving local organisations the support and resources they need to work together to deliver locally-designed activities and interventions. It helps to fund activities like youth clubs, sport sessions, one-to-one mentoring, support for parents, skills sessions, and much more across 9 London boroughs. Young people and communities are at the heart of MyEnds. This is a collection of stories celebrating the activities, people and impact that is happening in MyEnds neighbourhoods.

COLLECTIVELY MYENDS HAS DELIVERED

106 interventions

which has reached over

20,000 young people

WHAT'S THIS ZINE ABOUT?

These Zines have been developed as part of the Dynamic Process Evaluation, which aims to capture the learning from the MyEnds programme and share ideas with others. The stories shared in these Zines have been developed from the regular information MyEnds Sites have shared with Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit (London VRU), and have been created by Innovation Unit in collaboration with London VRU and the MyEnd Sites themselves.



My Lewisham is working to reduce violence affecting young people in key areas in Lewisham, including Pepys Estate (within the Evelyn Ward), Honor Oak Estate (within the Telegraph Hill Ward), the Monson Road and Hatcham areas of New Cross.

The partnership is led by Power the Fight, supported by Partisan, Spark2Life, and XLP.

Detached youth work and mentoring



THE FACTS

Delivery partner

Spark2Life

Setting

Community-based outreach, and Spark2Life's offices

Sessions delivered so far

470 detached sessions and 302 mentoring sessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Spark2Life is a community-inspired charity that supports children and young adults affected by violence, exploitation and social injustice. Working alongside young people who are considered 'hard to reach', Spark2Life advocates for them, building trusted relationships and empowering them to rebuild their future.

In Lewisham, Spark2Life recognised many young people facing complex challenges were disconnected from education and employment, often as a result of vulnerability and unmet needs. Through holistic, trauma-informed support, the charity helps young people navigate the criminal justice system, make positive life choices and prevent harm whilst promoting life.



Spark2Life did two things to help these young people:

1. They recruited two mentors from key Lewisham areas who knew about the local context and challenge, and they would be on the streets weekly talking to young people, community members, and business owners about what was happening in the area.
2. They offered young people they spoke to on the streets the opportunity to have one on one mentorship, for young people to talk to a trusted adult in a safe environment. Sessions included talking about relationships, family, friends, and purpose.

WHAT'S THE IMPACT SO FAR?

So far, they have reached 876 young people through detached sessions, and 18 young people through mentoring.

2 out of 3

young people receiving mentoring reported having increased feelings of safety, and having a trusted adult in their lives.

(Source: feedback survey).



The mentoring programme provides consistent, trusted support for young people who are navigating complex challenges and may be vulnerable to exploitation or harm.

Through positive relationships and trauma-informed guidance, mentors help young people rebuild confidence, strengthen decision-making skills and feel empowered in shaping their own futures. When they began mentoring, 12 out of 15 mentees were at risk of exclusion. 8 out of 15 mentees have had onward referrals to education settings, while all 15 mentees have been signposted to some form of education, training, or work experience activity. Mentees shared that, through this support, they began to have better self-esteem, a more established identity and this feeds directly into their purpose or goals they wanted to achieve, including in education, apprenticeships and employment.

One young person had been out of school for over two years, with an outdated Education Health and Care Plan that didn't work for them anymore. Through patience and consistency, the mentor built a trusted relationship with both the young person and their family. This created a safe space to understand the challenges they were facing, including feelings of frustration, social isolation and lack of support in education. Recognising the young person's needs and connecting with the professional network, the mentor advocated on their behalf with the local authority to ensure they received appropriate educational and specialist support. This included support around school reintegration

and a review of their Education, Health and Care Plan. As a result, the young person now has greater access to tailored professional support, and the family remains closely connected to Spark2Life, feeling more confident navigating systems that previously felt overwhelming.

Through the conversations Spark2Life have been having with community members, they have been helping older residents change their perception of young people, seeing them in a more positive light and wanting to create a sense of shared safety. This shift has created a safer, more supportive environment where young people are no longer viewed only through the lens of local tensions, but as individuals with the potential to achieve positive outcomes. Local residents have reported feeling safer in their community, and have noticed less violence affecting young people, which they attribute to the detached youth work alongside other work from My Lewisham.

(Source: community focus group)

“My Spark2Life caseworker helped me feel happier, and motivated. He was there for me, no matter what. He trusted me and that I can do better, and this helped me trust myself.”

– young person working with Spark2Life

(Source: Self-reported data in QMD, September 2025).

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