

What Is Lifespace Mentoring?

Our mentoring sessions focus on the needs, goals, and priorities identified by each young person.



Who are Lifespace?

With over 20 years experience Lifespace have supported more than 11,500 children and young people across Warwickshire. We offer a combination of mentoring, workshops, group programmes and youth activities and are trusted partners with 40+ schools, community settings, aligned agencies and services.

Our mentors pride themselves on building positive, trusting relationships with young people, creating a safe space where they can talk openly, feel heard and develop the confidence to navigate current life challenges. Mentoring focuses on the young person's strengths, wellbeing, confidence and practical coping strategies. Typically we meet for 8-10 sessions for 25-45 mins depending on age and preference.

Alongside one-to-one mentoring, we also deliver workshops, group programmes and youth activities that help young people build skills, strengthen wellbeing and feel more connected to their communities.

Communicating with families and referrers

Lifespace work closely with parents, carers and schools to ensure every young person receives the right support at the right time.

We recognise that referring organisations, professionals, parents, and carers often want reassurance that Lifespace mentoring is progressing positively and supporting the young person effectively. To balance this need with the confidential nature of mentoring, we may:

- Provide updates on attendance, engagement, and general progress.
- Receive relevant information from parents, carers, schools, or other professionals that may help us support the young person more effectively.
- Facilitate information sharing between involved parties where it is appropriate and beneficial to the young person's wellbeing.

Any communication regarding a young person will be managed through appropriate channels, such as our administration team, the referring organisation, or an agreed lead professional. Wherever possible and appropriate, we will discuss information sharing with the young person and keep them informed about decisions that affect them.

Direct access to mentors through personal contact details is not normally provided. Any details obtained inadvertently should not be shared with young people or third parties, as this may compromise professional boundaries and our ability to provide Lifespace mentoring support.

Mentoring in an educational setting

We believe that effective support for young people is strengthened through collaboration.

We aim to work closely with schools to ensure a joined-up, consistent approach that promotes the young person's wellbeing and safety.

Lifespace will work with the setting to agree suitable arrangements for sessions, including an appropriate time and suitable location.

The young person's parent, carer, and/or referring professional will be informed of the agreed arrangements as appropriate.

Mentoring in a community setting

Lifespace does not provide Lifespace mentoring sessions within a young person's home.

Where Lifespace mentoring takes place outside an educational setting, a suitable community venue will be identified and agreed with the young person, their parent or carer (where appropriate), and any relevant professionals. Details of the venue, session times, and start date will be communicated in advance.

For primary school-aged children, a parent or carer must remain on site for the duration of the session but should not be present within the mentoring room unless agreed as part of the support plan.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Lifespace commit to doing everything in our power to ensure young people are protected



Safeguarding at the heart

Lifespace follows national statutory guidance on information sharing and works with other services to ensure children and young people receive the right support at the right time.

Where there is concern that a young person, or another person, may be at risk of harm, Lifespace will follow its safeguarding policies and procedures. Information will be shared with appropriate professionals and agencies where necessary to protect the safety and wellbeing of those involved.

All Lifespace staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training and hold enhanced DBS checks.

We want you to feel confident in our approach. That's why we share our key policies, including Child Protection and Safeguarding, can be found at lifespace.org.uk/about-us/downloads.

Our Responsibilities

All parties referring or supporting a young person should be aware that Lifespace works within a multi-agency safeguarding framework and may communicate with other relevant organisations and professionals when appropriate.

By referring a young person to Lifespace, or by providing consent for a young person to access support, it is understood and acknowledged that:

- Lifespace will share relevant information with appropriate organisations and professionals where this is necessary to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child or young person, in accordance with safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance and data protection requirements.
- When working in schools, Lifespace will share relevant information with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL in a timely manner. Lifespace will not work on safeguarding concerns in isolation and will seek to ensure concerns are understood within the wider context of school.
- Lifespace may contact parents, carers, those with parental responsibility, or relevant professionals if concerns arise regarding a young person's safety, wellbeing, or welfare.
- Lifespace may seek advice, guidance, or support from safeguarding professionals, including Children's Services, local authority safeguarding teams, health services, and the police, where appropriate.
- Lifespace staff and volunteers cannot guarantee confidentiality where information indicates that a child, young person, or another person may be at risk of harm. In such circumstances, information will be shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with safeguarding and data protection requirements. This is explained to mentees, in an age appropriate way, when we commence mentoring with them.

If you have a safeguarding concern or require safeguarding advice, please contact:

Jo Broughton, Designated Safeguarding Lead, at safeguarding@lifespace.org.uk or 01789 297400.

Any questions?

Lifespace know that accessing support from organisations like us often comes at a particularly challenging time for young people. And for you, the adults who support them.

We hope that this document reassures you but recognise that you may have further questions which we're always happy to answer.

We can signpost to other services, including support sessions for parents and carers. Lifespace also provide reflective supervision for school DSLs and Pastoral staff.

For more information say hello@lifespace.org.uk

Find out more at:
hello@lifespace.org.uk
01789 297400
www.lifespace.org.uk



@lifespacetrust

Registered charity no.1122170

