

Would you like to become a Starfish mentor?

We are delighted to let you know that we are running a Starfish mentoring programme in our local area.

Starfish is a Salvation Army mentoring programme, supporting children and young people aged 9 to 16 in schools.

The aim of Starfish is to make a difference to young people, one by one. This is inspired by the story of the man who – one by one – throws stranded starfish back into the sea. Challenged on what difference it can possibly make to the thousands of beached starfish around him, he replies, 'It made a difference to that one!'

Starfish is offered to local schools free of charge, offering early help focused on emotional health and wellbeing. Working within a school's student wellbeing support, Starfish provides committed and trusted adults to work with young people who need additional help, without which they would be at risk of not meeting their full potential.

Young people who benefit from mentoring come from all walks of life. Every young person has unique skills, talents and abilities, but not always the opportunity to let them flourish. Through the establishment of mentoring relationships, Starfish provides opportunities for young people to be supported, to develop positive personal and relational life skills, a healthy emotional wellbeing and to reach their potential.

Starfish provides a unique opportunity for involvement in the lives of children and/or young people from the whole spectrum of the local community, and we have opportunities for people who would like to become volunteer mentors.

No one can be too old to mentor or not 'cool' enough. Anyone with time to give, ears to listen and an open heart can walk alongside a young person in need – an hour or so a week can be enough to make a significant impact.

However, it is recommended that Starfish mentors be aged 21-years or older. This ensures that mentors have sufficient life experience and maturity to effectively support and guide mentees throughout the mentoring programme.

Mentors will need to apply through The Salvation Army's Starfish Recruitment Portal, attend a two-day residential training course, complete iLearn online training, and have an enhanced background check. The time commitment is 1.5 to 2 hours per mentee per week, which includes a 45-60 minute mentoring session in school. Mentoring continues for an agreed period of time, often around ten weeks. In addition there will be weekly paperwork. Mentors will be supported by the Starfish Co-ordinator throughout.

We are really excited about the impact that Starfish is having in the lives of young people. If you would like to get involved, become a mentor, or find out more, please contact our Starfish Co-ordinator.

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

