



Fact sheet on Mentoring

- Mentor, the National Mentoring Partnership, completed statistical analysis in the U.S.A on the impact that mentoring had young people deemed to be 'at risk' of becoming NEET. For young people who met regularly with their mentors, these benefits include¹:
 1. **55%** more likely to enrol in college
 2. **78%** more likely to volunteer regularly
 3. **90%** are interested in becoming a mentor
 4. **130%** more likely to hold leadership positions
 5. **52%** less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip classes
- In London the demand for youth support networks has also increased given that there have been a **46%** cut on overall spending on youth services since 2011, in which the capital has lost at least **100** youth centres, a fall of almost half. In that time, **560** youth workers have also lost their jobs at these sites.²
- The average cost of sending a male aged 15-17 to a young offenders' institute is **£85,975 per year**. It is also estimated that the cost to society of a person not being in employment, education, or training is **£120,000** for their lifetime, through costs such as benefits and lost income tax.³

The reduction in youth support services has a strong correlation with the upturn in school exclusions and knife crime:

- With schools having less resources to deal with a growing number of young people with complex needs, there has also been a notable increase in exclusions and expulsions in London. The consequences of removing young people from mainstream education can be hugely detrimental on their life chances and prospects. This is highlighted in a report from SEDEC, which states that at least **60%** of the UK's prison population were excluded from school. The report also found that excluded pupils are often from socially-disadvantaged backgrounds, including being **four times** more likely to grow up in poverty, **twice** as likely to be living in care, and **seven times** more likely to have a special educational need as other children.⁴ Therefore the children most likely to be excluded are often those who need the most support.
- With there less people and resources dedicated to keeping young people occupied and in mainstream education, more and more young people are being drawn to

¹ <https://www.mentoring.org/why-mentoring/mentoring-impact/>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/mar/22/number-of-london-youth-clubs-nearly-halved-since-2011-riots-report-finds>

³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563326/costs-per-place-cost-per-prisoner-2015-16.pdf

⁴ <http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/behaviour-and-exclusion/>

commit anti-social behaviour and crime. There were **67** fatal stabbings in London alone in 2019, as the capital witnessed its highest recorded knife crime incidents for decades. Knife related deaths also amounted to over half of the homicides committed in the capital that year- and clearly stands as the principal issue regarding youth violence.

- Croydon also has its own specific problems in London. With the largest under 18 population of any borough, there are many young people who need support to overcome obstacles in their lives. Croydon ranks as one of London's **most deprived** districts for education and training as well as for crime, and has the **worst** record for knife crime in schools out of any London borough, with **89** knife crime offences in school premises between 2015-2018, over 30 more than any other borough.