

Work so far

We have had to think hard and carefully about how we can continue to deliver the ROSE project during the pandemic. We spoke to the funders of the project, The Samworth foundation, who supported our ideas.

We share new ideas with the whole Rose team in three ways, Facebook group, phone calls and Zoom meetings. The team are now having monthly meetings on Zoom. Most mentors have been able to join in. We have practiced online delivery of our training using these meetings as well as catching up on each other's news and sharing ideas.

The team mentors enjoy the chance to talk to each other, for example, Phil says about the Zoom session, 'I liked it, it was easy to talk to people but I like to

meet as the group.'

We have kept in touch with the organisations we were going to visit and let them know about our plans. We have let the places where we had delivered training have a Power point pack so that they can do some follow up work. We have looked at new opportunities and ways to deliver the training.

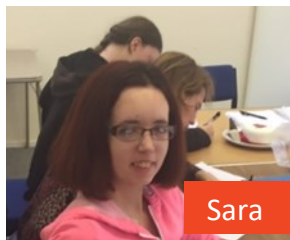
All the team have had a review of their work and thought about what difference this project can make in people's lives. We also thought about what being part of this project means to us.



Ricky Roo said, 'I always thought in the past that people didn't listen to me or my points of view. But I feel people are listening to me more now. They take me more seriously. I have always felt I have an instinct about when something is wrong, and it is good to explain this to others - 'If it seems too good to be true, it usually is'



Sara said, 'I enjoy being a mentor and meeting new people. I have met a lot of new people who are now are my colleagues, mentors who are friends. Making people more aware of sexual exploitation and online grooming. I like being engaged with the whole presentation process; training through to delivering the subject. I think it is important work for me as it helps keep people safe from being hurt. I support and am supported by the whole team.'



We were able to deliver a morning of online training to 10 Reach Care staff on the risks of sexual exploitation faced by people with learning disabilities and how to support them to stay safe. The presentation was given by the Rose project team including 3 mentors, Anna, Chelsea and Laila.

We had some difficulties with the technology but everyone learnt from the experience and we had positive feedback from those taking part. Here are some of the feedback comments.

'It was really interesting – I can support the service users better with online stuff.'

'I enjoyed listening to the mentors and looking at the apps.'

'It will help me to talk more about sexual exploitation and sex in a more open way.'



In May, Kay and Bridget took part in a full day Zoom meeting with the other 5 projects that have Samworth Young Voices funding and the Samworth team. We discussed how the various projects were coping and adapting to the current restrictions. Samworth want to capture what has been achieved so far and it was decided that each project will prepare 3 narrative reports on their activities led by the young people and mentors who are part of each project.

We have been gathering quotes for the 3 topics we have chosen for our narratives:

1. Becoming a mentor and the training.

Here are some of Chelsea's answers

How did you learn what to do as a mentor?

'I attended some meetings to do some training about sexual exploitation and become a mentor. We learnt what to do if someone is being taken advantage of and how to spot the dangers and what we can do to stop this from happening in the future.'

What do you enjoy about being part of the Rose team?

'I really enjoy working as part of a team with the other mentors to gain the knowledge and the skills with my friends and looking forward to going into schools and teaching it to other people.'



2. Delivering training to young people.

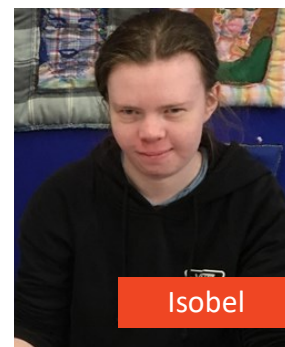
Here are some of Isobel's answers

What did you enjoy about delivering the ROSE project?

'Doing the social media bit, like staying safe online as that's my area. Talking to the students, I really liked it when they knew the social media I was talking about and how they learned things from us.'

Was anything difficult for you?

'Only at the start, knowing the stuff, but you get the hang of it over more sessions'



3. Telling professionals about our project.

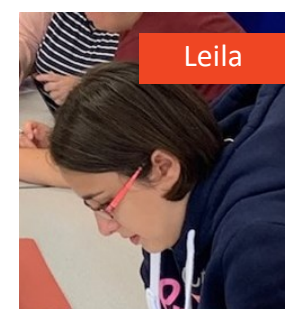
Here are some of Laila's answers

What have you gained from taking part in presentations to the professionals?

'I think I have gained confidence in talking to professionals as the topic is important as it does happen and people don't always know the signs of being sexual exploitation.'

Has being part of ROSE project changed you in any way?

'I am not sure if it has changed me but I think I am more aware of the different forms of exploitation and how to do something about it.'



We are already planning our next online delivery session and starting to think about best ways to work with young people if we cannot meet them face to face.

Our next Newsletter will be in November. We hope everyone stays safe!

ROSE Stands for.....

- R**each – supports everyone working on the project
- O**ut – we are taking a message out to people
- S**top – we want to stop bad things happening
- E**xploitation – when some body uses somebody else badly to get what they want

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dani Noquet, ROSE Project Manager on 01636 919946.