



Future Men (FM) is a specialist award winning charity supporting positive male activity, engagement and involvement. FM has expertise in the challenges and solutions in working with boys and men who are socially or economically disadvantaged, marginalised or isolated.

The Ventoring Project

FM has developed a comprehensive work programme addressing the needs of young men aged 13 to 25 in Westminster and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (North Kensington only).

We work with at-risk young men targeting the vulnerable, disenfranchised and marginalised. We deliver outreach to engage with young men not in education, employment or training (NEET) and those at-risk, young men who are sometimes out on the streets engaged in anti-social behaviour and/or at risk of/or engaging in criminal activity.

FM approach to engaging with young men that are deemed hard to reach is 'Ventoring', based on the words "Vent" and "Mentor". There is a focus on the "venting" period involved in establishing strong relationships prior to mentoring. If the underlying factors of non-engagement are not addressed and integrated into the one-to-one process, change is not sustainable for the young person.

The aim is to increase the service users' confidence and self-esteem. Following the establishment of strong relationships, a thorough needs assessment is conducted exploring family, health, education, training, employment and social needs of service users. FM works with service users to plan the support, clarify expectations and set timelines. The objective is to increase the opportunities for jobs, training and education, to empower our service users to continue their development beyond their affiliation with the Ventoring Project, to seek a life away from criminality and to re-integrate those young people who come to us disengage from mainstream society.

We work on a one-to-one and group basis with these young men, on the streets and in their homes, by appointment, to help them look at their lives, their behaviour and develop career and personal goals for their future. We introduce them to and help sustain effective relationships with providers of information, advice and guidance, apprenticeship projects, and training providers.

Additionally, we aim to introduce and help our service users sustain effective relationships with key/relevant agencies and projects. Youth Hubs Our Youth Hubs play a key part in helping young people's personal and social development. Based in Westminster, The Amberley and Churchill Gardens provide a space for young people aged 8-19 to take part in activities such as music production, sport and games, as well as development programmes such as healthy relationships and inclusion training.

We have continued to run sessions that inspire young people to be the best they can be, bridging the gap between formal and non-formal education, we help young people learn about themselves, and others around them to create positive outcomes for their futures.

Our club strives to emphasise and reinforce this positive spirit and provide a safe and welcoming space for young people and their families where they can relax, play, learn and access appropriate support for their needs. The long term, trust-based relationships which we build with young people enable us to maintain a connection through periods of adversity.

Whatever their situation and ambitions we strive to support them to make informed choices about their future and to develop the skills to progress toward realising their goals and being positive forces within their community and wider society.

Please forward if appropriate to do so.

Paul Campbell Head of Programmes 07806 336 475 P.campbell@futuremen.or