

Friendship Works at 40!

This year, Friendship Works celebrates 40 years of supporting young Londoners through mentoring.

As often happens, reaching this milestone has led us to reflect on our achievements so far, and consider where we want to go next. Friendship Works are excited to share some of those reflections with you.

Looking back

It's a little over eighteen months since Friendship Works merged with Family Action. Initially, our focus was on settling into the new organisation, whilst ensuring we keep our service going uninterrupted. During this time we were able to continue our core work of supporting current matches, and making new ones.

A key objective of the merger was to provide more young people with mentoring support by growing the service. There have been several exciting developments on this front since the merger. We have been fortunate enough to secure new funding which has allowed us to start working with a wider range of young people – for example, we are now supporting a number of young people living in care. In addition to broadening the range of young people we support, we have expanded geographically and started working in two additional boroughs – Lambeth and Tower Hamlets. We have also started to work on new ways of supporting our young mentees: we are currently working with some of our corporate partners to develop employability opportunities for our older mentees.

Of course, we want to ensure that we continue to provide the same high quality support to all our matches, and with all these exciting developments we have been able to grow our team of caseworkers to five members of staff.

Looking forward

We have great confidence in the impact that our model of mentoring has in the lives of children and young people, and we are always exploring how the strength of the model can be used in different situations to meet their differing needs. We have already started extending our reach to new groups of young people, but we are keen to develop this work with specific groups – for example by supporting care leavers, or further building on our work with young people who struggle with poor mental health.

We want to continue growing, and hope to start work in new parts of London, as well as benefitting from Family Action's national networks to explore the possibility of establishing satellite services in other parts of the country.

As part of our 40th birthday celebrations, we are hoping to bring together mentees and mentors from across the years to celebrate their time with us. We are looking forward to hearing the long term impact our friendships have had in the lives of our mentees and mentors.

We very much hope that all our supporters want to stick with us on our journey and continue supporting our work.



**Building
stronger
families**