



The High Sheriff of Lancashire
Dennis G Mendoros OBE, DL, FRAeS



EmpowerMent



EmpowerMent – that's the name of a new mentoring scheme being introduced by the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mr Dennis G Mendoros, OBE, DL, FRAeS, aimed at improving the quality of life for young people and future generations.

EmpowerMent - mentoring scheme is launched

The EmpowerMent Initiative for Lancashire, launched on 26 July 2010, aims to establish a network of mentors that will work closely with young people across the county to promote opportunity and career development.

The project is initially aimed at young people aged 16-25 years but could be rolled out to include children as young as 14.

The mentors will be volunteers from professional backgrounds with a track record of success in their field of business.

The project will be spearheaded by the **High Sheriff of Lancashire** and is supported by the Princes Trust, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire's Clubs for Young People, LANPAC and other partners.

The High Sheriff of Lancashire, Dennis G Mendoros, OBE, DL, FRAeS said: "We are very fortunate that in Lancashire we have a number of organisations that are committed to working in partnership to promote community initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of young people. I am delighted that so many organisations are supporting this new initiative and I am confident that

EmpowerMent will compliment their work without duplication and, more importantly in a cost-efficient way.”



Sue Littlefair, from the Princes Trust, said: “The Princes Trust is delighted to be chosen as a key partner in the High Sheriffs EmpowerMent initiative for Lancashire. It can only be good news as this development will help, support and give other positive opportunities to many more young people across Burnley, Blackpool and Lancaster.”

Mentors will offer two or three days a year to meet young people and talk about their challenges in getting to where they are today. They will also signpost the youngsters to any opportunities within the partner organisations.

Burnley will be the pilot area for the scheme and it will then be rolled out to Blackpool and Lancaster.

EmpowerMent ‘Fact file’

- The project will establish a network of mentors that will work closely with young people across Lancashire to promote opportunity and career development.
- The project is initially aimed at young people aged 16-25 years, but it is hoped this will be extended to children as young as 14 years old as the project progresses.
- The EmpowerMent Programme will also act as the catalyst in supporting existing Prince’s Trust programmes in Lancashire.
- The High Sheriff will spearhead the project and will be responsible for its development throughout his year in office with the aim of producing a sustainable project for the future.

- The aim of the project is to improve the quality of life for young people and also for future generations.
- Mentors will be volunteers from professional backgrounds who are successful in their own field of business. They will have a story to tell and will give hope and direction to young people who will then consider their opportunities for the future. They will bring a new perspective to the lives of young people involved in the project.
- The project is being supported by Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Club's for Young People, the Princes Trust, LANPAC and other partner organisations.



What will 'Mentors' actually do?

Anyone can volunteer to become a mentor from any sector, all we ask is that they have life experience and have faced and overcome challenges. They should also be positive and be able to motivate and inspire young people with the story that they have to tell.

There are two different types of Mentors:

- **Princes Trust Enterprise Mentor (2 years)**

The Mentor will develop a one to one relationship with a young person from the Princes Trust Enterprise programme who has recently set up in business. They will support them with their business plan and share their business experience. The mentor will provide support once a month in the first year, then as agreed with the young person in the second year.

- **Princes Trust Progression Mentor**

A progression mentor will develop a relationship with a young person whilst on one of the programmes and then support that young person in achieving an agreed progression plan. This progression could be something as simple as; enrolling on, and successfully completing another programme or course at college, setting up in business, attending interviews, gaining employment or helping the young person address some personal social issues that have been identified as barriers to this progression.

The Mentors should be professionals from different backgrounds. They must be successful in their own field and charismatic in communicating and engaging with young people.

Mentors will offer two or three days per year in support of the programme.

Mentors will meet the young persons in a structured and disciplined environment (schools, community centres etc) where they will describe to them their life experiences and challenges in meeting their current professional positions.

The role of the mentors will be to **share with the young people** how they overcame obstacles to become who they are today. It is proposed that at least two or three different Mentors per year will visit the same young people and each Mentor will bring a new perspective into the lives of the teenagers.

The Mentors will also “signpost” all current Police, Prince’s Trust, LANPAC, LACYP and LCC Initiatives available for young people.

Early examples of EmpowerMent at work

In June **Matt Riley**, Head of Daisy Communications undertook a 45 minute question and answer session to a group of Princes Trust young potential entrepreneurs. He is a great supporter of the Trust and he is a silver patron.

Thirteen young people from the Technical Engineering Development programme organised and developed by The Army and Princes Trust attended **BCW Engineering in Burnley** in July and were shown around the factory to see how car parts etc were made.

BCW’s Managing Director, Alec Cassie, did a 30 minute speech and youngsters were encouraged to apply for vacancies.

How do I find out more?

Contact Sue Littlefair, Head of Development for the North West at the Princes Trust on 01282 714160 or email Sue.Littlefair@princes-trust.org.uk or Ian Groundwater at LANPAC on 01772 412733 or email ian.groundwater@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

