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## HOW DID YOU BECOME A PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR FOR ENTERPRISE MENTORS?

I was working for Prospects services, who won the contract for the Enterprise Mentors, working on the Connexions contract with young people. Part of my role was to engage with employers, etc., and so I was seconded to the position of project coordinator.

## WHAT ATTRIBUTES OR SKILLS ARE NEEDED TO BE A MENTOR?

I think you need to have good empathy, ideally an understanding of the sort of client group that you're going to be working with. As Alexa said a lot of patience, and fairly thick-skinned, because people don't always turn up when they're supposed to, they might not engage with you, so you need quite a lot of patience. In terms of the project coordinator, you need to be highly organised, keep on top of everything in terms of arranging appointments, setting up timetables for schools and things like that.

## WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES?

There's a lot of positives. When you match mentors and mentees and it's a really good match and people seem to be moving on, that's a really positive experience. I think it's also positive for the mentors if they feel like they're making a difference. I know one of our mentors had a meeting with a young person at school, I think he was about 14 years old, and he came out of that meeting and he was in tears. He said I cannot believe the hand that child's been dealt. You know, had he been dealt a different hand, he wouldn't have been turning out the same way. And he really felt that he wanted to help that person move on in the future.

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE LOOKING TO ENTER YOUR JOB SECTOR?

I think just give it a go. All of the mentors that were involved in the project seemed to get a lot out of it. They came back with really positive feedback about what they've been doing. Again, a bit disappointed that the project was so short. It started in about May time and finished at the end of the following March. So I think they would have liked to have continued it for a longer period of time really and see more results from the young people.

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