

Why is me2 needed?

Many disabled young people lead very active lives but continue to be isolated in their own communities. Many do not have friends locally and simply do not get the chance to mix with their non-disabled peers. Mainstream inclusion prepares disabled young people for independence, whether it be in education, employment, training or in life generally.

The inclusion of disabled young people into mainstream youth provisions is not about charity or sympathy. It is about equality, fairness and the right of a particular group to have access to opportunities that are available for all young people. These are core youth work values, yet inclusion of disabled young people into mainstream activities is still rare.

me2 focuses on the social model of disability. This means that we are concerned with the social barriers that prevent disabled young people from participating fully and equally in mainstream youth and leisure activities. This is in contrast to the more commonly offered medical model which focuses on the young person's disability as the reason why inclusion is not possible.

Young Kent's me2 programme focuses on:

- Attitude:** Awareness, knowledge and commitment
- Access:** Creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment
- Action:** Making it happen!



Young Kent

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Email me2@youngkent.org.uk

Website www.youngkent.org.uk

Charity Registration No: 1063975

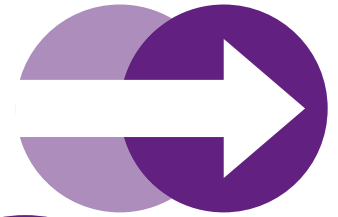
Young Kent operates throughout Kent and Medway. Our programmes and outreach work actively help children and young people achieve positive outcomes in their lives. We provide training, advice, support, activities and resources to over 200 affiliated youth clubs, groups and organisations as well as delivering face to face programmes.

Over 18,000 children and young people and 1,500 adult leaders are involved in our affiliated clubs each week. We believe all children and young people have undiscovered potential and we aim to unlock that potential.

The me2 programme is supported by a variety of different funders including BBC Children in Need and Aiming High Medway.



me2



Do you know a young person aged 13-19...

With a disability or additional needs...

Who is bored of doing the same things?



ENABLING DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE INCLUSION

Is me2 right for you?

Young Kent's me2 programme aims to break down some of the barriers that prevent disabled young people from being included in mainstream youth and leisure activities.

This is achieved by bringing together disabled young people aged 13 to 19 with non-disabled mentors.

Mentors (aged 15 to 19) are given the

opportunity to:

- ▶ Complete a peer inclusion mentor training course
- ▶ Provide supportive relationships that enable disabled young people to be included in mainstream youth provisions



What does the me2 programme involve?

The me2 programme involves the following elements:

1. Peer inclusion mentor training:

This intensive 3-day training course is designed to break down some of the barriers that prevent disabled young people from being included in mainstream youth and leisure activities.

2. Mentoring a disabled young person:

Each mentor will be matched to a disabled young person and provide a supportive relationship that will enable the mentee to be included in a mainstream youth provision. Mentors will receive on-going support and there will be a planned withdrawal process.

If you live in Kent or Medway and would like to refer a disabled young person on to this programme, please complete and return the referral form. The young person will then be notified if a trained mentor becomes available in the local area and invited to an informal meeting with a parent/guardian.

For further details,
me2 Coordinator,
Telephone 01622 351150
or email
me2@youngkent.org.uk

Referral form

Details of the person making the referral

Name:

Agency (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Details of the young person to be referred

Name:

Date of birth:

Disability:

School/College:

Name of parent/guardian:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Please return your completed referral form to:

me2 Coordinator

36 Hedley Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 5AD

