Redthread

Redthread
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Website

Redthread is a dynamic youth work charity whose vision is a society in which all young people lead healthy, safe and happy lives. Their mission is to empower young people to thrive as they navigate the challenging transition from adolescence, by integrating trauma-informed youth work into the health sector. Redthread’s programmes meet young people at ‘teachable moments’, and are holistic, bespoke and young person-centred. Redthread works in partnership with the national health service, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations in order to encourage joined-up working in the sector, and to empower young people to engage effectively with the support that can enable them to pursue positive change and make healthier choices.

Redthread has been running the Youth Violence Intervention Programme (YVIP) for the past 13 years in London and this year expanded to Nottingham and Birmingham hospitals. The programme embeds specialist, professional youth workers in the Emergency Departments. These youth workers meet young people (11-24) who have become victims of violence or exploitation within the ‘teachable moment’: a powerful opportunity for reflection and positive change created by the pain, isolation and fear associated with an intense crisis moment. Following a period of initial relationship-building on behalf of the young person in the resuscitation bay, Redthread youth workers then work with young people both in the hospital wards and then back into their communities. The service is completely bespoke to each young person, however the most common issues that our young people face, are safe housing, mental health concerns, education, employment and training.

VPA focal person

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John has been CEO of Redthread since 2008, having founded the pilot of the Well Centre in 2002 and the UK’s first hospital based youth violence intervention programme in 2006. John is as passionate today about the strategic opportunities for innovative health partnerships to improve the health inequalities of young people, as he was when he started his career as a youth work practitioner. John believes meeting young people in ‘the teachable moment’ is crucial in supporting vulnerable young people to live healthy, safe and happy lives.