

National Grid supports Lifespace mentors

31 Aug 2016

National Grid has donated more than £4,000 to Stratford-based charity Lifespace. The charity provides volunteer mentoring for young people aged between 9 and 19 across South Warwickshire. The charity offers support to children suffering from anxiety, bullying, self-harm, eating disorders or family problems.

Lifespace needed £4,200 to train 12 new mentors, and National Grid stepped up to the plate. Training consisted of an initial three-day course followed by on-going specialist sessions throughout the year and regular supervision.

Formed 12 years ago, Lifespace uses volunteers to mentor young people on a one-to-one basis for periods of between four months and a year. The pupils are chosen from primary and secondary schools across South Warwickshire. Mentoring helps reduce the distress some children are experiencing, helps build their resilience and ability to cope with difficulties, and also enables them to achieve more in school.

"In 2015 Lifespace was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the outstanding work of its mentors, so National Grid was only too happy to support this excellent organisation," explained Stephen Murray, head of National Grid's West area network.

"The new mentors whose training has been made possible by the grant will enable Lifespace to meet the growing demand from primary schools in south Warwickshire for help with year six pupils. The grant will allow Lifespace to work with at least six new primary schools in the next academic year, helping the community's young and vulnerable members to get a good start in life. And there's the added benefit that the Four Acres Trust charity has agreed to match any funding provided by National Grid."

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
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Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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