

Corporate Strategy 2006-2009

Who we are and what we do

The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation (MBF) provides guidance and support to organisations and practitioners involved in mentoring and befriending. As the national strategic body, MBF also works to influence policy and practice in the sector and across government.

The MBF has developed a national infrastructure with regional coordinators established in each of the nine government regions with responsibility for engaging with and supporting practitioners in the field.

The MBF is committed to promoting voluntary regulation of mentoring and befriending projects through the Approved Provider Standard, the national benchmark for safe and effective practice.

Based on our ongoing mapping of mentoring and befriending activity we currently reach over 3,000 projects in the Voluntary and Community Sector. However, this figure continues to rise as mentoring and befriending becomes increasingly seen as an effective way of tackling social exclusion.

Mission, values and vision

Our **mission** is to develop a national and sustainable infrastructure for mentoring and befriending enabling volunteers and other key stakeholders to contribute to the social development and economic prosperity of individuals and communities.

Underpinning the Strategy is a set of **core values** that reflect our commitment to serving people and their communities including:

- A commitment to equality of opportunity and the role that mentoring and befriending can play in helping to address issues of inequality
- A commitment to quality systems and standards for partners, practitioners and the MBF itself
- A recognition that practitioners and participants are at the heart of the work
- A belief that mentoring and befriending can impact upon and contribute to the social development and economic prosperity of people and communities
- A responsive approach to the needs of practitioners, partners and members
- A view that the organisation should develop and grow by establishing a reputation for quality of service and the professionalism of its people

Our **vision** is of a society where the potential for mentoring and befriending to transform peoples' lives and communities is fully realised and where mentoring and befriending is seen as part of mainstream volunteering strategy.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

The **strategic aims** of the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation are to:

- To ensure mentoring and befriending is at the centre of current and future national volunteering strategies
- To provide a national framework to maximise the participation of volunteers and others in their community and to impact positively on individuals and their community
- To encourage Government investment in sustainable provision
- To expand mentoring and befriending provision and create a range of support structures, services and standards to ensure a quality experience for the volunteer and a successful outcome for both participants

We aim to achieve these aims through the following **strategic objectives**:

- To provide national leadership for the mentoring and befriending movement
- To encourage organisations to use mentoring and befriending as part of their support strategy
- To provide capacity building support to mentoring and befriending bodies through a national and regional structure
- To promote quality and standards in the delivery of mentoring and befriending support
- To develop and share best practice in mentoring and befriending

The Way Ahead – Priorities For Action

The **priorities** outlined below are designed to address the key areas of work that need to be undertaken to ensure a visible and effective contribution to the work of Government, the Voluntary and Community Sector and to meet the needs of practitioners. Each year, the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation produces detailed strategic and operational plans to cover its key areas of work.

1. Influencing national policy/practice

Aim: To promote the role and further expansion of mentoring and befriending in supporting social and economic policy and to contribute to the strategic development of the volunteering infrastructure.

2. Working to Standards

Aim: MBF is committed to setting standards for the mentoring and befriending sector. With this mind, our aim is to increase the recognition and status of the Approved Provider Standard (APS) with practitioners and funding providers, benchmark APS with other quality standards, develop national standards for training and development of volunteer mentors, befrienders and coordinators and explore opportunities for the development of a nationally accredited award scheme.

3. Developing and Promoting Best Practice

Aim: To develop and share best practice within the sector including evidence of successful impact through the creation of clear and accessible guidance, training, case studies and other resources for practitioners, members and the wider community.

4. Developing the Infrastructure

Aim: To create a cohesive regional infrastructure across the nine government office regions to support a) the development of best practice and to capture and promote the impact of the work of exemplar practitioners and partners with policy makers, and b) the creation of regional strategic partnerships with a range of stakeholders and funding providers to further develop capacity and sustainability.

5. Developing the People and the Organisation

Aim: The MBF is committed to a) developing its people, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to provide an effective service to practitioners, stakeholders, partners and the public, and b) the development and recognition of the organisation as a professional and reliable provider of services and support for the mentoring and befriending sector and associated stakeholders.