



LIFELINE MENTOR Q&A: SHABRAZ AHMED

Lifeline offers development and support to 16-25 year olds looking to start up their own business. After an initial training course some participants are selected for additional support, including access to a business mentor.

Here, we give you the chance to meet one of these mentors – Shabraz Ahmed.

Our Lifeline mentors are passionate people who sign up to support an aspiring young entrepreneur on their journey to creating their own online business. Mentors are there to offer guidance and advice, and help their mentee stick with their commitment. It isn't for the faint-hearted – it's a frustrating, but hugely rewarding process. In return, mentors have a real opportunity to help a young person, one who is facing multiple challenges, to do something that might, without the mentor's support, be out of their reach.

If you're interested in becoming a Lifeline mentor go to www.brap.org.uk/lifeline for more information.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A LIFELINE MENTOR?

I heard about it from a post on the brap facebook account. The concept of the project appealed to me – the idea of helping young people develop their own business. So I had a chat with brap about what it involved and then attended the mentor training course provided.

The training was really useful. brap went through what Lifeline actually is, how the project came about, and what our role as mentors would be. Plus you meet other people who will be mentors on the project.

DO YOU HAVE A MENTEE NOW?

I do, I'm mentoring a young person called Carl. We've been working together for a good few months now. His business idea was an online one-stop-shop for expectant mothers, where all the products they'd need are available all in one place. He's speaking to parents to ask if there are any things they had difficulty finding when they were pregnant, and then he'll stock those things.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LIFELINE SO FAR?

It's been a really positive experience. I don't come from a business background, I'm coming at it from mainly education and community. I got involved because I really wanted to give back and work with the young people and take their ideas from something they dream to a reality. That's one of the most rewarding things.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND BEING A LIFELINE MENTOR TO OTHER PEOPLE?

Yes. Whole-heartedly.

You can find more information about Lifeline on our website at www.brap.org.uk/lifeline or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/braplifeline.

