

INDEPENDENT VISITOR VOLUNTEER PROFILE

TITLE	Independent Visitor – Volunteer
LOCATION	Various locations in the community (Kirklees and surrounding areas)
OFFICE BASE	Kirklees Looked after Children Independent Service Brian Jackson House, 2 nd Floor New North Parade Huddersfield HD1 5JP
RESPONSIBLE TO	Independent Visitor Scheme Co-ordinator: Chris Berridge
SALARY	Voluntary post – all out of pocket expenses, training & travel costs will be covered by the scheme
HOURS	A few hours per month (approximately 4-10 hours)

PURPOSE OF ROLE

To provide support to young people looked after by the local authority in accordance with the requirements of the Children Act (1989) and the Children & Young persons Act (2008). This includes unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who are looked after by the local authority.

- To befriend a looked after young person (in local authority care) to make a positive difference to their life. Children and young people can be any age up to 18 years old but the majority of those referred are teenagers.
- To provide a child or young person with the opportunity to develop a trusting, reliable relationship with an adult who will listen to them and provide 1-to-1 independent support and advice.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ To visit a looked after child or young person at least once a month on a flexible basis and access leisure activities, day trips etc.
- ✓ To undertake training and regular supervision
- ✓ To attend peer group meetings
- ✓ To immediately refer any safeguarding issues back to the scheme co-ordinator, in accordance with policies and procedures of Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board
- ✓ To work within agreed risk assessments for that child or young person in all activities including lone working procedures
- ✓ To observe the confidentiality, privacy and dignity of children and young people
- ✓ Operate in an anti-oppressive manner in all aspects of the work in line with Kirklees Equal Opportunity Policies and ensure its promotion within the working environment.
- ✓ To immediately report any accidents /hazards /near misses or any other health and safety matters / concerns relating to a child or self, following Kirklees Health & Safety procedures

KEY ACTIVITIES

- ✓ To access local leisure activities where possible that:
 - ✓ Respond to individual children and young people's interests and choice
 - ✓ Is enjoyable for the child or young person
- ✓ To transport children and young people to and from the agreed activity (volunteers are not required to drive for this post but must be able to travel as necessary for visits)
- ✓ To provide accurate records of spending for monitoring and reimbursement purposes
- ✓ To complete an activity form following each visit or outing with a young person
- ✓ To keep in regular contact with the scheme co-ordinator and inform them of anything outside of agreed plans that may arise in activities

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

An enhanced disclosure and barring check and full employment history check will be required for this role. A conviction may not exclude candidates from appointment but will be considered as part of the recruitment process.

We welcome applications from people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

Independent Visitors Person Specification

Although no formal qualifications or experience of working with looked after children are necessary there are some personal qualities that are essential for the role.

Volunteers must:

- ✓ Be age 18 years or over and demonstrate maturity in both life experience and personal development.
- ✓ Be a positive role model and be able to build a supportive relationship with a young person, being mindful of professional boundaries and conduct.
- ✓ Have an awareness of the issues facing looked after children and young people.
- ✓ Demonstrate a commitment to Kirklees Equal opportunities Policy.
- ✓ Have a non-judgmental attitude, empathetic approach and good communication skills.
- ✓ Be reliable and able to make a regular commitment (at least once a month) with a young person **for a minimum of 1 year**.
- ✓ Be prepared and able to participate in training days and group/supervision meetings.
- ✓ Be good fun and enjoy the company of young people
- ✓ Be committed to the safety and wellbeing of young people
- ✓ A driving licence is not necessary but the ability to travel is essential.
- ✗ NOT work for Kirklees Looked After Children & Young People Service with Case responsibility / oversight for Looked After Children & Young People in Kirklees. NOT be a Kirklees employed Foster Carer.