

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Volunteer Buddy
Supported by:	NYY Youth Development Team
Locations:	In your local area or as agreed with the Youth Development Team
Description of the Project	<p>Sometimes young people require additional support from a trusted adult. They may be finding it difficult to engage with education, learning or work, interact socially with other young people or may need support to move towards independent living. These young people may require the support and guidance of specialist support services for young people. Practitioners in these services build a close relationship with young people and support them to address their problems, become more independent and move on from specialist support. Once a young person does move on from specialist support they can sometimes feel like they have nowhere to turn and no-one to support them.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to build up a network of volunteer Buddies who can provide that extra support for young people exiting specialist support services, or who have been identified as someone who would benefit from the support of a Buddy. Volunteer Buddies will be trained and equipped with the skills they need to carry out this important role. The project supports young people aged 16 – 19 years old.</p>
Commitment:	<p>The role of the buddy is to develop a relationship with a young person so that they can provide social and developmental support for that young person.</p> <p>A young person may need support for approximately 1 hour per week for a 6 month period. As such, Buddies will need to be flexible and support will be based around the needs of the young person.</p> <p>You will be required to attend training (some mandatory), record meetings and actions, and meet with fellow Buddies at network meetings.</p> <p>You will be required to complete paperwork and provide updates to the NYY Youth Development team.</p>
Requirements of a Buddy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide one to one social and developmental support to young people who have been identified by Youth Support Services. • To provide a listening ear and offer proactive support to a young person by encouraging them to participate in their community and to access appropriate support services. • To develop relationships with young people based on professional boundaries. • To participate in initial and ongoing training. • To hold regular one to one meetings with a young person. • To promote independence in young people. • To encourage participation in work, education or learning. • To encourage participation in activities promoting social and emotional wellbeing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To record Buddy activity in a timely way, in keeping with NYY recording procedure. • To complete and submit regular expenses claims to NYY. • To participate in regular meetings with the NYY Youth Development team. • To maintain confidentiality in accordance with NYY policies. • To provide constructive feedback to the NYY Youth Development Team and participate in the evaluation of the project.
Training:	The project requires Buddies to undergo mandatory induction training. Subsequently there will be opportunities for Buddies to participate in Level 2 Youth Work training and other further training as appropriate.
Support:	<p>You will meet with a member of the NYY Youth Development Team regularly. These meetings will allow NYY to monitor the Buddy / Young Person relationship and for both parties to raise any issues that need addressing.</p> <p>You will also meet with fellow Buddies at quarterly network meetings. Here you will experience peer support and have the opportunity to share good practice. The network meetings will provide an appropriate supervision environment for the Buddy role. However we understand that there will be occasions when individual supervision may be required and will manage this as appropriate.</p>
Expenses:	You will be provided with travelling expenses and a refreshment budget for your meetings.
Person Specification:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent Listening skills • First-rate interpersonal and communication skills • Ability to engage young people • Ability to encourage strengths and challenge weaknesses • Commitment to personal development • Patience • Reliable • Non-Judgemental • Enthusiastic and positive • Persistence • Awareness of issues facing young people • Life experience • Flexibility to work evenings and/or weekends where necessary
Other requirements:	<p>Enhanced DBS check</p> <p>In rural areas the use of a car may be necessary.</p>