

Befriender Role Profile



A volunteer befriender offers non-judgemental support and friendship to a focus child aged between 5 and 13 years for two hours a week for 12 months.

Responsible to

Sam Hunt, our 5s to 13s Befriending Manager.

Responsibilities

- spend two hours a week with the focus child in and away from the child's home
- develop positive relationships with family members, built on trust and confidentiality
- offer respect, help and emotional support to the focus child and family during difficult times
- encourage and support the child and their family to discover their own solutions to the problems they are facing
- use own life experiences and skills to encourage the child to build their self-confidence

Requirements

- be aged 23 or over
- enjoy being with children and be prepared to plan and resource child-led activities
- be kind, caring and non-judgemental
- maintain confidentiality
- be a positive role model
- have patience to support a child through a difficult period in their life
- undertake or provide evidence of a clear enhanced DBS certificate, arranged by FOTF, and be subject to two reference checks

Desirable experience

It is desirable but not essential to have experience supporting, working or volunteering with children aged 5 to 13 years and/or have children or grandchildren of your own. Being able to drive and having access to a car that could be used in the role is useful.

Required training

Initial training includes an online safeguarding course plus two full days of in-person befriender training. Ongoing subsequent training opportunities are provided by FOTF, relevant to the role.

Time commitment

You must be able to spend 2 hours after school or at weekends over the course of 1 year, regularly and consistently (holidays permitted!). You will also need to be available for regular supervision check-ins with the Project Manager via phone, email and occasionally in person.

Location

You will be matched to a focus child who lives in the city of Winchester or surrounding villages and must be prepared to make visits to places of interest in the local area with the focus child.

Benefits

- a comprehensive induction training programme with regular supervision and support
 - ongoing training opportunities that are relevant to the role
 - opportunities to spend time and get to know other volunteers in our team
 - reasonable travel expenses to be reimbursed in line with our Volunteer Policy
-