

Buddy Network Information Sheet

Introduction

North Yorkshire Youth (NYU) is running a young persons' befriending project across North Yorkshire. The aim of the project is to support 14–19-year-olds by helping them to gain confidence, meet their goals and reach independence.

Which young people will this scheme support?

Currently, referrals are being taken from youth support services across North Yorkshire who support young people to help them to work through issues that might prevent them from progressing positively in life. The Buddy project will follow on from this existing work and is designed to give young people continued support at a lower level.

What will a volunteer Buddy do?

A volunteer Buddy will develop a relationship with a young person once that young person has moved on from youth support services. Together, the Buddy and young person (and referring worker in some instances) will develop a befriending agreement and identify progression routes and goals. The Buddy and young person will meet regularly for a period of approximately 6 months. Meetings will follow a simple framework to allow progression and reflection.

A volunteer Buddy:

- Is an additional supporter helping young people to reach their potential, rather than a replacement for the youth support worker.
- Will be trained and supported to provide the appropriate level of help and support to a young person.
- Will undergo an intensive selection process and will be offered a range of mandatory and developmental training. Is not the end of the road for a young person. If a young person develops additional needs or previous issues return, the young person will be referred back into youth support services.

- Will be supported by a Youth & Community Development Worker from NYY.
- Will be invited to network meetings to meet up with other Buddies from across the area.

How will the matching process work?

NYY will use the information provided at application to make a safe and appropriate match between a young person and a Buddy, based (where possible), on common interests.

What support will a Buddy receive?

All Buddies will receive induction training, and a DBS check. Each Buddy will be supported primarily by an NYY Youth & Community Development Worker, though other practitioners may also be available if there are specific concerns about the young person.

Buddies will have a clear set of procedures and processes to support their activity, including lone working safeguards and reporting forms. Expenses for travel and refreshments will be paid to the Buddy as appropriate.

How will activity be recorded?

Each Buddy will record meetings with the young person, along with details of progression, in a 'Buddy Log'. NYY will retain the Buddy log once the relationship between the Buddy and young person has come to a conclusion.

How do I refer into the Buddy Project?

Referral forms are available from NYY and will be screened by the Head of Youth Services.

How do I apply to be a Buddy?

To express your interest in becoming a Buddy and request an application pack, please contact the Youth Work Manager, Panda Gledhill: panda@nyy.org.uk – 07765 212127.