

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title:	Independent Visitor
Supported by:	NYY Independent Visitor Coordinator
Locations:	Various North Yorkshire
Description of the Project	The aim of this project is to build up a network of volunteer Independent Visitors for children looked after by the local authority in North Yorkshire and are living in children's homes or foster care. The scheme will work with young people across the county and initially priority will be given to young people age 10-17 who have little or no contact with family members
Commitment:	<p>The role of an Independent Visitor is to befriend a looked after young person to make a positive difference to their life. This provides the young person with the opportunity to develop a trusting, reliable relationship with an adult who will listen to them, offer one to one independent support and advice as well as supporting their involvement in fun social and leisure activities.</p> <p>Independent Visitors will visit young people on a regular basis, and it is expected that this will be once a month. The visits can be for a couple of hours or for the whole day, depending on the planned activity.</p> <p>It is intended that Independent Visitors will establish an ongoing relationship with a young person and we therefore ask that you plan to be available for a minimum of two years.</p>
Requirements of a Buddy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To visit a looked after child or young person at least once each calendar month, making suitable arrangements with carers and the young person and to be reliable in keeping to those arrangements. • To establish an ongoing reliable relationship with a young person, based on professional boundaries. • To remain independent of the Local Authority and to promote the young person's developmental, social, emotional, educational, religious and cultural needs. • To undertake suitable leisure and social activities agreed and planned with a young person. • To provide a listening ear and support to a young person. • If requested, to provide a contribution to the young person's review undertaken by the Local Authority which reflects the young person's viewpoint. This could be in writing or at the young person's invitation by attending the review. • To recognise where additional support such as advocacy may be needed and to sign post to such support. • To participate in initial and ongoing training and networking/support opportunities with the Independent Visitor Scheme. • To record activity in a timely way, in keeping with NYY recording

	<p>procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work within agreed risk assessments for that child or young person in all activities. • To keep in regular contact with the Independent Visitor Scheme Coordinator and inform them of any concerns that may arise during visits. • To follow policies and procedures of North Yorkshire County Council and NYY in relation to any concerns about the safety of children. • To observe the confidentiality, privacy and dignity of children and young people and work in accordance with relevant NYY policies. • To complete and submit regular expenses claims to NYY. • To provide constructive feedback to the NYY Independent Visitors Team and participate in the evaluation of the project.
<p>Selection Process and Training:</p>	<p>NYY will assess candidates against the Person Specification outlined below. There will be an initial selection process following which candidates will be invited to attend preparation training. This training will give candidates the opportunity to find out more about the role and develop their knowledge and understanding. Interviews will be offered to candidates who complete the preparation training and wish to proceed with their application.</p> <p>Independent Visitors will access regular networking meetings which will provide peer support and support from the scheme. Further training opportunities will be available to Independent Visitors as appropriate.</p>
<p>Support:</p>	<p>You will have regular contact with the Independent Visitor Coordinator both by phone and in person. This will allow NYY to monitor the Independent Visitor/Young Person relationship and for both parties to raise any issues that need addressing.</p> <p>You will also meet with fellow Independent Visitors at network meetings at least twice a year. Here you will experience peer support and have the opportunity to share good practice.</p>
<p>Expenses:</p>	<p>There is an activity budget of up to £20.00 per month. Travel and training costs will also be covered by the scheme.</p>
<p>Person Specification:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not employed by North Yorkshire County Council Children's Social Care functions. • Excellent listening, interpersonal and communication. • Ability to engage young people. • Ability to be a positive role model and to build a supportive relationship with a young person, being mindful of professional boundaries. • Commitment to personal development and ability to navigate challenges within the context of an ongoing relationship with a young person. • Have a non- judgemental, patient and empathetic approach. • Awareness of issues that may affect young people who are looked after. • Be reliable and available to provide regular support once per month and to attend relevant training and meetings. • Be good fun and enjoy the company of young people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children. • Demonstrate commitment to anti discriminatory practice and equal opportunities approaches. • Commitment to work within set rules, boundaries and expectations. • Willingness to travel across North Yorkshire and surrounding areas.
<p>Other requirements:</p>	<p>Enhanced DBS check Use of a car is not essential but in rural areas may be helpful.</p>