



## Role Description – Volunteer Befriender

### The role of a Befriender with us:

An adult volunteer who will provide a supportive friendship for a socially isolated young person aged between 8 and 18 who lives in South Ayrshire. Ideally this will involve meeting with their young person every couple of weeks for a few hours, spending time together accessing local activities. All out of pocket expenses, including travel, will be fully reimbursed, and support is provided at every stage by an allocated Project Coordinator.

### What we look for in a Befriender:

- Ability to communicate well with others.
- Able to enrol as a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.
- Able to make a minimum commitment of six months to the young person they are befriending.
- Able to travel locally either by walking, public transport or car in order to participate in outings with the young person.
- Happy to seek advice and guidance and receive support from their Project Coordinator whenever needed.
- Open minded as the Project works with young people from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- Following training, to be able to have empathy and understanding of some of the issues encountered by young people referred to the Project.
- Continuous focus on the needs of the young person who you are matched with.
- Willing to participate in a broad range of activities mutually agreed with the young person.
- Must have availability out with school hours as this is when befriending takes place.
- To be a positive adult role model for the young person and, very importantly, to have FUN!

### Befriending tasks:

- Be matched on a one to one basis with a young person.
- Go on regular outings and activities with the young person.
- Have the opportunity to participate in group outings/activities and also volunteer support sessions.
- Maintain regular and effective communication with the project with regards to the young person's achievements / growth and activities, and to receive ongoing support from the Project.
- Help develop and encourage a positive relationship with a matched young person.
- Have an awareness of and be able to adhere to the Project's policies and procedures including administration.

- Undertake refresher training as and when required.
- To ideally give 3 months' notice, should you wish to bring your involvement with the project to an end.

### Training and support:

- New volunteers are provided with 12 hours of initial training. Thereafter ongoing sessions are offered through the year and include information sessions and social events.
- Befrienders may also, if they wish, complete the Befriending Network's Core Skills for Volunteers online course.
- Befrienders receive regular support, contact and guidance throughout the match, and for as long as they remain with the Project.
- References can be provided following a successful 6-month commitment and fulfilment of the role.

This role is considered to be Regulated Work with children as specified in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) (PVG) Act 2007. Accordingly, applicants will be required to become a member of the PVG Scheme, or undergo a PVG Scheme update if already a Scheme member, prior to any formal offer of this role. Under Part 1, section 34 of the Act it is a criminal offence to knowingly apply for Regulated Work if you have been barred from this type of work. If you wish further information on the PVG Scheme you can visit the Disclosure Scotland website at [www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk).