



Volunteer Role Description and Person Specification for Mentor/Befriender in Connecting Opportunities

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| Role Title: | Mentor/Befriender |
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| Responsible to | Connecting Opportunities |
| Hours | Flexible to suit you between 9 and 5 |
| Days | Monday to Friday |
| Location | Bradford |

The Project

Connecting Opportunities works with new migrants to develop their skills and opportunities to find work and be part of the local community. Ten organisations that specialise in working with migrants are offering tailored support, cultural orientation, English language classes and other training across West Yorkshire and part of North Yorkshire (Craven, Harrogate, Selby and York). The project is also creating new local connections, with opportunities for local people to be volunteer mentors and befrienders, and for employers to provide work placements to help people get a foothold in the job market.

Connecting Opportunities is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Role Description

We are looking for volunteer mentors and befrienders who can spare 1-2 hours each week on a flexible basis to provide one-to-one and/or group support in the community.

Befrienders support our participants in order to build their confidence, try new things and increase participation in the local community and to provide an opportunity to develop their practical English language skills. We require a minimum commitment of 6 months in this role, due to the time taken to build a relationship between volunteer and participant.

Mentors work with our participants towards meeting objectives set in conjunction with key workers, with the aim of preparing them for their journey into employment, education or training. Mentors will work with their mentee for a maximum of 6 months as by this time participants will be ready to take the next step.

Becoming a befriender or mentor is a great way of making new friends, enjoying new experiences, learning about other cultures and gaining an insight into the issues faced by refugees and migrants. It is an opportunity to make a real difference to an individual, and to use your experience to help someone else. You will be provided with all necessary training, have regular supervision meetings and have a named co-ordinator to support you with any concerns along the way. Connecting Opportunities will cover the cost of your travel, and will pay your expenses for any agreed befriending activities.

The role may require an enhanced DBS Check; Connecting Opportunities will pay for this.

Person Specification

Essential:

1. Approachable, warm and friendly disposition with a patient and caring approach.
2. Ability to be non-judgemental and put the participant first
3. Reliable and flexible
4. Willing to use public transport
5. Willingness to attend training, regular supervisions and quarterly peer support event to share good practice with other volunteers
6. Good communication skills in spoken English. Speaking an additional language would be an added benefit.
7. Willingness to support with practical tasks
8. Willingness to work in line with Equal Opportunities, Confidentiality and Safeguarding policies.

Desirable:

1. Experience of working with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds
2. Understanding of British work culture