

Volunteer Buddy - Learning Disabilities

Do you have an interest in helping people with try new experiences and be part of the wider Croydon community?

As a Volunteer Buddy, you will provide support to individuals with Learning Disabilities as they try to continue to take part in a variety of activities. Covid 19 has naturally changed the nature of this project. Many people with Learning Disabilities also have other underlying health conditions and are therefore very vulnerable, this project aims to help people take part remotely in a variety of activities (not just those designed for people with Learning Disabilities) and to support people to take steps back out into the community safely.

The individuals in need of support will each have their own experiences and circumstances as well as interests. As the Covid 19 situation changes Volunteer Buddies will have an important role to help people adapt and not to feel scared. CVA are delivering this project in partnership with Croydon Mencap, they will provide expert advice and support thought out.

We are looking for Mentors who can take time on a weekly basis to take part in a social activity and to have a chat, this may be online such as Zoom or Whatsapp video or just on the phone. Part of the Buddies role will be to encourage people to try new activities either online or following safe social distancing advice. The project originally intended to support people with Learning Disabilities to take part in volunteering with local charities, if the situation develops to allow this, we will reintroduce this element.

Ideal for individuals interested in carrying out supportive roles, those with an interest in providing real hands-on support to people with Learning Disabilities and those with an interest in community-based services. You'll need to show empathy and be able to build a friendly relationship while maintaining boundaries.

Key tasks are to:

- Work with the client to support them to achieve their goals
- Establish and maintain contact with the client throughout the relationship
- Complete supporting documentation and end of support report for each client seen
- Support clients to engage with new activities
- Attend meetings with the client (as and when under a mutual agreement)
- Be self-motivated and use your initiative
- Maintain confidentiality and professional boundaries at all times
- Attend training, three-way review meetings and support sessions
- Volunteers will be required to:
 - Complete an application form (online or hard copy)
 - Take part in a face to face interview (online or social distancing)
 - Complete online training including Learning Disabilities Awareness training
 - Undertake a DBS

It is important to this work, that volunteers anticipate being able to meet a minimum commitment of six months and adhere to a regular attendance of at least ½ a day per week

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