

# **NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE**

## **ROLE DESCRIPTION**

### **VOLUNTEER INDEPENDENT VISITOR – <insert local authority>**

#### Main Purpose of Role

To be a friend to a child or young person in care who has little or no contact, or has experienced troubled or unreliable contact with parents. To provide opportunities for children and young people to develop meaningful, long term relationships with adults. To work in partnership with the local authorities while maintaining the independence necessary to this role.

**Supported by:** Independent Visitor co-ordinator

#### ***Specific Responsibilities***

- 1 To befriend and provide a stable, positive and continuous friendship with the child or young person you are matched with.
- 2 To visit the child or young person on a regular and reliable basis.
- 3 To value and respect the wishes and feelings of the child or young person and where necessary represent their wishes and interests to other significant persons.
- 4 To undertake activities agreed with the child or young person which are suitable to his/her age, aptitude, and ability.
- 5 To promote the child or young persons developmental, social, emotional, educational, cultural and religious needs.
- 6 To maintain confidentiality at all times and to ensure observance of and adherence to NYAS Confidentiality and Serious Concerns and Reporting Policy and relevant local authority procedures.
- 7 To participate in training, and individual and group support meetings where necessary.
- 8 To keep and submit brief records about your contact/visits with the child or young person you are matched with, along with any expenses incurred.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Whilst NYAS does not require volunteers to have the same levels of formal qualifications as salaried staff, volunteers must not be a local councillor or an employee of the children's services of the locals authority for whom NYAS provides volunteer services.

<p><b>Experience / Knowledge</b></p> <p><b>Skills/Abilities</b></p> <p><b>Personal qualities</b></p>	<p><b>Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good measure of life skills</li><li>• An understanding of children and young people in our society</li><li>• An understanding of the impact of discrimination on individuals.</li> <li>• Good communication particularly with children and young people</li><li>• Ability to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people</li><li>• Ability to recognise and understand the values and behaviours of children and young people</li><li>• Ability to receive and accept support and guidance</li><li>• Ability to understand the circumstances of children looked after (in care) and children 'in need'</li> <li>• Sensitivity to the needs and wishes of the child (or young person)</li><li>• A commitment to children's rights and welfare</li><li>• Non judgemental approach</li><li>• Reliability and punctuality</li><li>• Sense of humour</li><li>• A good level of physical and emotional health, so that you are able to meet the needs of the child appropriately</li></ul>
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