

Job Description – Young Carers Befriender

Role Title: Befriender

Responsible to: Line Manager

Salary: £12 per hour – Mileage paid

Location: Various locations within Warwickshire, preferably within your locality

Time Commitment: 3-4 hours per week with a possibly of more hours

Role Purpose: To provide befriending sessions to allocated Young Carers in Warwickshire, working in small groups of three. The aim is to enhance their self-confidence, emotional health and wellbeing, while reducing social isolation and promoting their independence and resilience. This role involves building trusting and supportive relationships with Young Carers, offering them companionship and a listening ear.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Transportation:** Collect Young Carers from home or school and return them after each session, ensuring their safety and well-being during transit.
- **Befriending:** Meet regularly with Young Carers with whom you have been matched, fostering a relationship based on friendship and trust.
- **Support and Listening:** Provide the young people with the opportunity to chat about their lives, interests, and any concerns they may have. Actively listen and offer support where appropriate.
- **Activity Coordination:** Organise and engage in activities agreed upon with the Young Carers, such as visits to parks, museums, or local cafes like McDonald's. These activities are designed to be enjoyable and beneficial for the Young Carers.
- **Documentation:** Complete a contact sheet after each session to record the interactions and any significant observations or concerns.
- **Supervision and Reporting:** Participate in regular supervision sessions with the Line Manager to discuss progress, share experiences and receive guidance. Report any disclosures or concerns regarding a young person's welfare immediately.
- **Adherence to Policies:** Uphold Warwickshire Young Carers' core principles, vision, culture, and values. Follow all policies and procedures as outlined in the Befriender handbook.
- **Confidentiality:** Maintain confidentiality and handle all information regarding Young Carers with sensitivity and respect.

Qualities and Skills Required:

- **Reliability:** Consistently honour commitments and be dependable, ensuring regular and timely attendance at all sessions.
- **Interest and Empathy:** Show a genuine interest in making a positive impact on the lives of Young Carers. Demonstrate empathy and understanding towards their unique challenges and experiences.
- **Driving Licence:** Possess a full, clean driving licence and have access to a car that is insured for business use to facilitate transportation of Young Carers.
- **Communication Skills:** Exhibit strong verbal and non-verbal communication skills, enabling effective interaction with Young Carers.
- **Patience and Friendliness:** Approach each session with patience, a warm demeanour and a friendly attitude to create a welcoming environment for Young Carers.
- **Active Listening:** Employ active listening skills to fully understand and respond to the Young Carers' needs and concerns in a non-judgmental manner.
- **Mobility and Activity:** Be physically active and mobile to participate in various activities that may require walking or other physical involvement.

Training and Support:

- **Induction Training:** Attend the Befriending Induction training to understand the role, responsibilities and best practices.
- **Ongoing Training:** Participate in further training and/or networking events to continuously improve skills and knowledge.
- **Support and Supervision:** Receive ongoing support and supervision from the Line Manager, either in person or via Zoom/telephone, ensuring that guidance is always available.
- **Peer Support:** Engage in regular reviews and peer support opportunities through networking events with other Befrienders.
- **Communication:** Stay updated with regular news and updates from the WYC Befriending Service, communicated via email.

Additional Requirements:

- **References and DBS Checks:** Due to the vulnerable nature of the individuals supported, two references and DBS checks are required. Details will be discussed during the recruitment process.
- **Commitment to Safeguarding:** Ensure the safety and well-being of Young Carers at all times, adhering to safeguarding policies and reporting any concerns promptly.
- **Flexibility:** Be adaptable to the needs of Young Carers and the organisation, potentially working outside regular hours to meet the service requirements.

Equal Opportunities: Warwickshire Young Carers is committed to being an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from candidates with the relevant experience and qualities. The role requires sensitivity to the diverse needs of Young Carers and an inclusive approach to all interactions.

This job description and person specification outlines the key responsibilities, skills, and attributes required for the Befriender role. By joining Warwickshire Young Carers, you will play a crucial part in making a positive difference in the lives of young carers, providing them with support, friendship and a brighter future.