Support a Young Person

Information on becoming a Volunteer Independent Visitor

childrenssociety.org.uk
What is an Independent Visitor?

Independent Visitors (IVs) are volunteers who befriend and support children and young people aged up to 18 years, who are looked after by the local authority. An IV can be life changing for a young person in care: being a consistent and supportive person in their life, helping them learn to trust, have fun and grow.

What does an IV do?

IVs will visit their matched young person regularly to demonstrate commitment to them. This may include visits to their place of residence, leisurely trips out, or sharing the young person's interests such as a hobby. Most visits during school term times will be in the evening or weekends.

Who can become an Independent Visitor?

Anyone can become a volunteer; however you will need the following skills and abilities:

- You need to be over the age of 18 years.
- Some experience of children and young people would be useful.
- The ability to relate appropriately to a young person.
- Non-judgemental and open minded.
- Ability to write up your visit.
- Understand the term 'confidentiality' and when it is necessary to break this.
- You must not be an elected member of the local council or work for Children's Social Care.
How children benefit from having an IV:

'I've had the pleasure of doing a lot of stuff with my IV, we discuss options for activities, she is a woman who is young at heart. Whenever I have had any issues or problems I can talk to her about them, it's like talking to a best friend. Thank you for being my Independent Visitor, I have thoroughly enjoyed our time.'

What we can offer you:

- An opportunity to make a positive difference to the life of a vulnerable young person.
- A full induction for the role, including training such as: Introduction to the role of an IV; IV in practice; Safeguarding; and Health & Safety.
- On-going support and training opportunities.
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses.
- To become part of a leading national children's charity.
- The chance to meet new people and have fun.
It is a painful fact that many children and young people in Britain today are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect.

The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local services, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn.

Find out more at childrenssociety.org.uk

If interested please contact us:
The Children’s Society
Level 3, Gateway
89 Sankey Street,
Warrington
WA1 1SR
Tel 01925 650127
cwm@childrenssociety.org.uk

Charity Registration No. 221124