

Organisation name StartaFresh - Christ Church, Stamford
Opportunity Volunteer Group Mentor
Address Christ Church, Green Lane, Stamford
Contact name Katie Blay, Project Coordinator
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Volunteer Commitment Three hours a week, minimum.
We are looking for this to be an ongoing commitment; the continuity and genuine interest shown by volunteer mentors is crucial.

Description

The Befriending group meets three afternoons a week and provides vulnerable adults with a place to socialise and feel part of the local community. Members are encouraged to form new relationships and take part in a range of activities which will improve their skills for life.

Your volunteer role will take place within a group setting; you will work alongside a group mentor and have on hand the support of the project co-ordinator. You will work with the team of group mentors to plan and provide opportunities/activities during group sessions (arts/crafts, quizzes, bingo, etc). Group mentors support members during the Befriending group session by acting as a 'sounding board' for their concerns and issues. Offering a listening ear and guidance to overcome barriers will be of mutual benefit to both mentor and member; mentors enable members to find purpose and reclaim their self-esteem, bringing about real change.

Skills & Qualifications Required

To be able to establish a mentoring role based on confidentiality and trust, adhering to the organizational policies and mission of Christ Church
An awareness and understanding of the reasons for social exclusion; experience of working with vulnerable adults, in an education or health setting is an advantage.
To be non-judgmental, non-discriminatory and demonstrate respect for other people's point of view.
Interpersonal skills and the ability to enthuse others is a must
Knowledge of the Stamford area, along with the facilities, support agencies and services available.

Policy & Procedures

An informal discussion, followed by an interview, submission of a completed application form, CRB check and two references will be required by all applicants
Successful applicants will be issued with a Volunteer Handbook and copies of policies and procedures.

Training & Support

Volunteers are provided with an initial free 'mentoring' training programme enabling them to further develop their skills.
All volunteers have the benefit of ongoing support from the 'StartaFresh' co-ordinator who will function as their 'line manager' and with whom they will have regular 1:1 meetings and may speak to for advice and guidance as required.
Volunteer team meetings are held every four months; it is hoped that volunteers will attend these meetings.

Date 17 May 2011