



Befriending Volunteer

Touch Base Project



Role Description

Do you have experience of mental health provision or working with individuals with autism/Asperger's? Do you have some spare time to take up an exciting volunteering role with Advocacy for All, a well-established advocacy charity?

We are looking for volunteers to work with us on our Touch Base project, a crisis alternatives services for adults living in Kent and Medway with a diagnosis of, or awaiting assessment for, autism/Asperger's who have significant mental health needs. Together we enable individuals to have bigger voices and better lives by supporting them to stay well and out of mainstream mental health services.

Our Befriending Volunteers will work alongside our advocates and other staff in providing valuable and safe social interaction to individuals experiencing loneliness and isolation. You will be working in the community to meet project members in a relaxed and informal setting, acting as a friendly, professional, approachable contact point and a listening ear.

Your responsibilities would include:

- Meeting project members in community settings (such as cafes, coffee shops, social hubs, etc.).
- Listening empathetically, with patience and a lack of judgement.
- Being prepared to signpost to other services and offer friendly advice, if it is asked for.
- Making contact with project members and liaising to schedule regular weekly meetings.
- Supporting individuals with decisions around safe travel.
- Representing Advocacy for All in public and upholding our values of empowerment, confidentiality, and accountability.
- As part of the team, identifying safeguarding concerns and raising these in an appropriate way.

We only work in the community and do not offer home visits to individuals.

We are based in Faversham, Kent and offer support to individuals living across Kent and Medway through both face-to-face contact and virtual support via Zoom.

We are looking for:

- A commitment of a minimum of 4 hours per month to offer the project
- Motivation to work with vulnerable individuals and support them in having their voices heard.
- Creativity and innovation which can assist with problem-solving.
- Time management skills and initiative.
- An understanding of boundaries and professionalism.
- An appreciation of the principles of self-advocacy – helping a person to develop the tools and the confidence to help themselves.

In return Advocacy for All offers:

- Induction into the organisation and a chance to see the wider range of advocacy support that AfA is engaged in.
- Training and supervision, as appropriate to the project, including: safeguarding, first aid, autism awareness, Peer Supporter training, and more.
- Experience of working at the intersection of autism and mental health, in a dynamic and important role.
- A chance to contribute your ideas and thoughts, seeing these have a real impact on the wellbeing and direction of the project

Expenses will be paid for travel.

Interviews will be held as ongoing applications are received.

A clear enhanced DBS and 2 references will be required if successful after interview.

If you would like to apply or have any questions about this role please email volunteering1@advocacyforall.org.uk for an application form.