

Job Description

Title: Independent Visitor / Mentor

Hours: Sessional . as and when required

Purpose

- To advise, visit and befriend a child or young person in residential care, a foster placement or living in the community.
- To enable a child or young person who is looked after by the local authority, to have contact with someone who is independent of the Social Services Department.
- To provide an adult friend for a child or young person who has little or no contact with members of their family.

Main Tasks

- To visit a child/young person on a regular basis as agreed by the young person and their carers.
- To give sound adult advice.
- To befriend and take an interest in the young person ensuring, at all times, their personal safety and welfare.
- To be aware of and seek to promote any needs the young person may have which relates to their ethnicity, religion, language, disability or other specific areas.
- To keep in contact with the Service Manager, Carers and Social Workers as necessary.
- To respect confidentiality except where the child may be at risk of significant harm.

- To contribute towards the child/young person's social, emotional and educational development.
- To support a young person in expressing their views and wishes.
- To support the care plan for the child.

Additional Tasks

- To attend support groups and training courses.
- To attend the child's review meeting if the child wishes.

Training and Support

- To attend a relevant series of initial induction and preparatory training support groups for Independent Visitors.
- Individual support from the Project Coordinator

Reporting

- A record of all visits is to be kept by the Independent Visitor, which should be stored safely.

Time Commitment

- Visits as agreed with the young person. (approx. 2 hours per week for the first month and 3 hours monthly thereafter as a minimum).
- Visitors are expected to make a minimum commitment of 18 months.