



Title Of Role: Volunteer Befriender

Location: The Unity Centre, 17 Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN

Time:

- 1-2 hours per week
- No set days, can be mutually agreed with your Befriender

Role Purpose

We are excited to introduce our upcoming Befriending service, an extension of our successful Just Ask programme, dedicated to addressing mental health and loneliness within the local LGBTQ+ community.

We are looking to recruit a bank of volunteers to train as Befrienders. As a Volunteer Befriender, you will play a crucial role in supporting LGBTQ+ adults, fostering improved self-confidence, independence, emotional health, and overall wellbeing. The service will act as a valuable signposting resource for individuals who need guidance in accessing services, as well as provide support to those individuals whilst they wait to access essential services.

Tasks and Responsibilities

- Meet with a person with whom you have been matched weekly, building a relationship of trust;
- Help the Befriender with reaching an achievable goal or milestone over a six week period;
- Complete a visit sheet after each meetup and to participate in regular supervision with the Volunteer Manager;
- Provide information and act as a signposting resource for local services, supporting individuals in navigating available resources.
- Serve as a support system for Befriender awaiting access to essential services, ensuring they have a reliable and understanding ally during this period.

Expectations

- Undertake a volunteer induction process that will include a short informal interview;
- Provide two references and agree to a standard DBS check;
- Complete a training programme that consists of a short introduction to befriending and LGBTQ+ awareness, as well as **two 3 hour** training sessions in-person (although online training will be available in due course);
- Commit **1-2 hours** each week over a **6 week period**;
- Report directly to your volunteer manager;
- Adhere to Chester Pride's code of conduct;
- Promote Chester Pride's ethos and values.

Personal Specification

- Genuine interest in helping others;
- A kind, empathetic person;
- Exceptional listening and communication skills;
- Ability to establish rapport and maintain confidentiality;
- Reliability that shines through;
- Fully committed to meeting weekly for at least 6 weeks with your matched Befriender.

Benefits

- Dedicated training certificate upon passing the training;
- Ongoing support and supervision and regular reviews with your volunteer manager;
- Reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket travel and lunch expenses, to be agreed in advance;
- Enhance your CV with valuable experience, transferable skills and references for future employers;
- Expand your social circle and meet new people;
- Develop and sharpen social and communication skills;
- Make a meaningful difference in the local community.

Please send expressions of interest to natalie@chesterpride.co.uk. We can then discuss your suitability for the role, next steps, and get you registered as a volunteer with Chester Pride (if not already).