

ROLE DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Volunteer Befriender
REPORTS TO	Befriending Coordinator
LOCATION	Various locations across Harrogate District
WORKING HOURS	Minimum 6 months; 1- 2 hours per week (flexible)
ABOUT US	
Mind in Harrogate District is an independent local charity founded in 1973, affiliated with National Mind and the Mind Federation. We exist to provide a quality community-based service accessible to those who need support with their mental health and wellbeing.	
ROLE PURPOSE	
The Mental Health Befriending Service at Mind in Harrogate District is for adults with mental health challenges. The service matches a volunteer befriender with a client who may be lonely or isolated and struggling to make social connections, and would benefit from community based support. Befrienders and befriendees are matched based on mutual interests. The role of the volunteer befriender is to provide human companionship and support in the community.	
MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To meet the social needs of the client by meeting on an agreed basis for e.g. a walk, refreshments, attend a community group or activity together or go on a short trip out on public transport. 2. To refer and signpost service users to other Mind in Harrogate District or organisations/agencies support if appropriate. 3. To comply with Mind in Harrogate District's Health and Safety Policy, Data Protection Policy and to protect your own and others' health, safety and welfare. 4. To ensure you have an understanding of, and comply with Mind in Harrogate District's procedures for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable adults and children. 5. To report all concerns and incidents to the Befriending Coordinator. 6. To adhere to confidentiality at all times - if a client confides in you, tell them that you will be sharing information with the Befriending Coordinator. 7. To comply with Mind in Harrogate District's Equality and Inclusion Policy in every aspect of your work and positively promote the principles of these policies amongst clients, volunteer colleagues and other members of the community. 	

8. To uphold the values of the organisation and work as an effective part of the Mind in Harrogate District team.
9. To complete Mental Health Awareness training and other Volunteer Training as appropriate.
10. Attend quarterly Volunteer Befriender Forum
11. Attend regular 121 Supervision meetings with Befriending Coordinator.
12. To report any unavailability (e.g. sickness or holiday or other absences) to the Befriending Coordinator as soon as possible.
13. To represent Mind in Harrogate District in a professional manner.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

1.	Empathy with or experience of people living with mental health issues (through professional, family/friends or lived experience)	Application form/ Interview
2.	Be friendly and engaging	Interview
3.	Have a compassionate and understanding manner	Interview
4.	Be punctual, organised and reliable	Interview
5.	Willingness and ability to work flexibly and travel across Harrogate District	Application form/ Interview
6.	A enhanced DBS Check is required for this role	

WHAT WE OFFER

- A chance to make a real difference in your local community.
- The opportunity to gain hands-on experience with a well-known brand.
- A professional reference upon successful completion of the volunteering period.
- Travel expenses will be reimbursed.
- Mental Health Awareness training; and other relevant training.
- Access to the Mind in Harrogate District staff and volunteer 24/7 confidential telephone counselling support.

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to have a conversation about the volunteer position, please contact us at Mind in Harrogate District on office@mindinharrogate.org.uk or 01423 503335.