

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role title:	Independent Visitor
Location:	Out and about in the community
Responsible to:	Targeted Youth Services Coordinator
Duration of role:	Minimum of 18 months
Frequency:	2 to 3 hours every two - three weeks



About Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)

BLGC aims to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realise their potential and become happy, responsible and caring citizens. Every day the club makes a real and lasting difference to the lives of young people and our volunteers are a crucial part of achieving this.

The role:

All local authorities have a statutory duty to provide an Independent Visitor's service in accordance with the Children Act 1989 (Schedule 2 Paragraph 17) and the Children and Young Persons Act (2008). We are looking for volunteers (over 21 years old) to befriend a child or young person in care or leaving care, to provide opportunities for a child or young person to develop a meaningful, long-term relationship. Each relationship is different, however typical activities may include:

- To visit child/young person on a regular basis.
- To undertake activities agreed with the child or young person which are suitable to his/her age, aptitude and religious needs. This can include, but not limited to, going for a walk, a milkshake, arts and crafts, bowling, baking, the cinema, and many more activities.
- To keep and submit brief notes about your contact/visits with your child or young person.

We need volunteers who:

- Can establish a positive, stable long-term friendship with a young person and be a positive role model.
- Understand the circumstances of looked after children and are committed to children's rights and welfare.
- Are reliable, non-judgmental, good listeners and able to engage with a child/young person.
- Can promote the child or young person's developmental, social, emotional, educational, cultural and religious needs.
- Can value and respect the wishes and feelings of the child or young person and where necessary represent their wishes and interests to other significant persons.
- Can adhere to policies and procedures at all times with particular emphasis on confidentiality, health and safety and safeguarding and relevant local authority procedures.
- Are able to drive and have access to a vehicle is essential for this role.

The benefits of volunteering in this role:

- You will receive a thorough induction programme and training to prepare you.
- You will receive guidance, supervision and ongoing support from your Coordinator.
- You will make a real difference to a young person's life.
- You will have opportunities to meet with other volunteers.

Additional information:

- You cannot be an IV if you work for Bolton Children's Services or are an elected member.
- You need to complete an application form, an enhanced DBS Check and BLGC's training.
- You will be given out of pocket expenses, within an agreed budget.

For more information: Contact the BLGC Volunteering Team on 01204 540 139 or volunteering@blgc.co.uk