Volunteer Mentor Pack
About

We recruit volunteer mentors for Mind Your Way and HeadStart to support young people with a range of difficulties. These can be anything from starting new schools, first jobs and new education and training opportunities to social isolation, confidence and self-esteem problems. Some of these young people will also require additional support or specialist intervention from other services which we’ll help them to find.

By joining our mentoring programme you’ll help support, guide and encourage young people providing them with a committed approachable role model - possibly something they’ve never had the opportunity of before. As well as offering individual access to ongoing support, you’ll be giving different perspectives on situations whilst focusing on working towards set goals.

We value our volunteers and the possible contribution they make to support young people in Cornwall, as this programme could not exist without them. This is why we spend time supporting you in your role through supervision and peer support meetings, as well as providing additional professional development opportunities and awareness raising training in subjects such as Mental Health, Self Harm, Sexual Health and Autism Awareness.
Becoming a volunteer mentor - 3 easy steps

1. Complete our Expression of Interest form. (At this point please inform us if you have any disabilities or learning difficulties we should know about).
2. Once we’ve received your Expression of Interest we’ll invite you for an interview, and you’ll be informed within 48 hours if you have been successful.
3. If successful you’ll be trained and become part of the Your Way mentoring programme.

Requirements

• **Commitment** – We expect each mentoring relationship to last 3-6 months. We ask our volunteers to offer 2-3 hours of support to a young person each week, attend a minimum of three Peer Support Meetings for volunteer mentors, complete supervision sessions with a member of the team on a 4-6 weekly basis, preferably face to face, but sometimes by phone/email and complete all training days.

• **Qualification** – Completion of your qualification is is possible, but not an essential part of your commitment to becoming a mentor. All our mentors work towards an accredited mentoring training programme. However some modules must be completed and verified before you can be matched with a young person whereas others are completed throughout your mentoring relationship. The initial 30 hour basic skills training course is delivered over three days, predominantly at weekends and evening sessions and consists of: an introduction to mentoring and mentoring skills, communication skills and professional guidelines, safeguarding and child protection policy and equality and diversity.

• **DBS** – Following your interview (within three days) you’ll need to complete an online DBS form as you’ll be unable to mentor a young person without holding a valid DBS authorised by us. **There is no exception to this rule.** Your identification documents will then need to be taken to a listed checker within a week of your acceptance interview. Should you have any difficulties in getting your DBS identification checked please
contact the member of staff who carried out your interview for guidance without delay. Please be aware that having your identification documents checked does not mean you have DBS clearance to work with a young person.

- **Business Insurance** – All volunteer mentors will be required to obtain business motor car insurance before transporting any young people. **This is usually free.**

**Equipment**

- You will be provided with a company phone to use whilst supporting a young person.
- You’ll also be allocated a volunteer email address.

**Expenses**

- Mileage and subsistence expenses are available using our claim form, which should be submitted monthly. We will reimburse the agreed out-of-pocket expenses incurred by you in the course of your mentoring role.

**What’s Next?**

If you think you’d like to get more information, or register to become a Mentor, please fill in the Mentoring Expression of Interest form at [your-way.org.uk](http://your-way.org.uk) or ring Ben Treleaven on 01872 222447 / 07948 622070, or alternatively on [ben.treleaven@ypc.org.uk](mailto:ben.treleaven@ypc.org.uk)