**Care Leaver Mentoring Programme**

**Role Description for Mentors**

# Mentoring Project Overall aim

To improve the lives of care experienced young people aged 18-25. As a mentor, you will provide 2-4 hours a month offering guidance, encouragement and a positive listening ear to help them overcome challenges, set goals and help them build a brighter future. Mentors are provided with support to achieve an optional University Certificate.

# Mentoring Project Specific aims for Mentors

* Provide a supportive and trusting relationship
* Encourage self-confidence
* Offer emotional support as a positive role model
* Provide guidance on topics such as education, employment and life skills
* Set goals and achievable actions
* Explore the young people’s strengths and interests and how they can utilise these

# Main role responsibilities

As a ‘critical friend’ Mentors are able to offer guidance, support and form a positive one-to-one relationship with care experienced mentees, who may have experienced limited life chances. The mentor’s role will provide support to the mentee to enable them to take responsibility for areas of professional and personal growth. The mentor is there to create a supportive, challenging and reflective learning environment.

Tasks include

* To liaise with mentee to identify a safe space in which to meet
* To build an effective relationship with a mentee
* To plan mentoring sessions with mentee in advance so the mentee can be prepared for session and have things to be discussed
* To listen and help mentees to identify and address barriers to their success
* To offer perspective, drawing on your own experience in dealing with life, for example preparing for job interviews, budgeting and planning for the future
* To work with the mentee and to set and monitor agreed goals
* To keep a journal of meetings and undertake relevant evaluations

Time commitment

* To commit to volunteering with a mentee for the duration of the mentoring agreement (usually up to 1 year)
* To meet with a mentee approximately 2-4 hours a month
* Recording the outcomes of the sessions undertaken
* 4 hours coursework over the course of volunteering to achieve a University Certificate

Support & Training Available

* To undertake a mentoring and safeguarding training
* Supervision
* Extra free training courses available
* Group events and trips
* Join a network of other volunteers and Mentors
* To participate in a end of programme debrief

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

* To work according to the guidance of the Mentoring Programme
* To establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries
* To respect different cultural values and work in a non-discriminatory manner
* A DBS check will be carried out on all mentors before they first meet a mentee

Mentor specification

We are looking for mentors who display the following:

* Aged 23+
* Knowledge and understanding of the issues that care experienced young people may face
* Knowledge and experience of building supportive relationships
* The skill of being able to question and challenge constructively
* To work to and respect confidentiality
* Ability to identify and address barriers to progression
* Ability to use one’s own perspective professionally
* Planning and organisational skills
* Skills in setting goals and record keeping

Benefits

* Make a difference in the life of a young person in your community
* Learn about yourself, personal growth
* Improve communication and personal skills
* Develop leadership and management qualities
* Reinforce your own skills and knowledge
* Increase your confidence and motivation
* Engage in a volunteering opportunity, valued by employers
* Enhance your CV
* Have fun!

How to apply and the onboarding process

* Complete online application form by midnight 10th May
* Attend Information Evening on 9th May 6pm
* Informal chat/interview during w/c 13th May
* Mandatory Training date in June TBC