 Mentoring Service:

Information about volunteering as a mentor

The purpose of the Mentoring Service is

**To provide one-to-one support for refugees and asylum seekers in their pursuit of personal development, education and employment in order to improve their quality of life.**

**Refugee Resource are able to offer this service with the support of a team of volunteers**

Refugee Resource is looking for mentors with good interpersonal and communication skills who are interested in other people and cultures, and are

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Other helpful skills may include:

⮚ Professional experience ⮚ Community experience

⮚ Language ⮚ **knowledge of the local area** ⮚ IT ability

Being a Volunteer as a Mentor involves…

* Meeting regularly with a mentee: The time commitment is 1 1/2-3 hours weekly over 12 months
* Mentoring support which is tailored to the needs and goals of a mentee
* Keeping in regular communication with Refugee Resource during the mentoring relationship

Benefits of volunteering as a mentor are many…

* Gain valuable experience
* Use and build on existing skills
* Make a difference in the community

TO GET INVOLVED … In Brief…

* Complete the Mentoring Volunteer Application Form
* After you have sent in your Application Form, Refugee Resource will get in contact with your referees and arrange for a DBS check.
* The Mentoring Co-ordinator will arrange for an informal interview.
* All volunteers are given an introductory training.
* On-going training and support is provided by Refugee Resource

**VOLUNTEER MENTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

To be able to

* commit to the Mentoring Service for one year from the time you are matched with a client
* make a regular time commitment to the mentee with whom you are matched and suggest activities to do together to get to know him/her
* maintain professional boundaries as a mentor
* complete (and review as necessary) an action plan to focus your mentoring relationship
* encourage and support your mentee, particularly in his/her involvement in creative, educational or work programmes
* advocate appropriately on behalf of your mentee(if necessary) and work sensitively with others within his/her network
* attend the mentor training programme (which includes two weekend days plus some evenings) and monthly support meetings
* provide regular feedback to Refugee Resource (monthly)
* adhere to Refugee Resource Policies including Confidentiality, Data Protection, Safeguarding
* be willing to work with your mentee with supervision and communication with the Mentoring Service Co-ordinator.

To be willing to have

* A clear understanding of and respect for professional boundaries and confidentiality
* A commitment to equal opportunities
* An understanding of protection issues (or a willingness to understand) regarding children and vulnerable adults and a commitment to Refugee Resource’s policy on these issues
* The capacity to make use of the support systems available and to use supervision to reflect on the impact of mentoring refugees and asylum seekers

**Personal Qualities**

* Warm, friendly and empathic personality
* Excellent communication skills
* A commitment to human rights and to the integration of refugees and asylum seekers
* The ability to form sustaining friendships within professional boundaries expected by the Mentoring Service and to be reliable in meeting the commitments of those friendships
* A mature and calm approach to stress and the ability to ask for help when required
* The capacity to understand experiences of loss, transition and exile