Essex and Suffolk Youth Enquiry Service

Employability and Life Skills Support Worker (Voluntary Position)

About YES

At YES, we believe every young person deserves someone in their corner. Since 1988, we've been supporting young people aged 11 to 25 across Colchester and Tendring with practical help, emotional support and opportunities to build brighter futures.

We provide practical and emotional support through services including housing and homelessness prevention, pregnancy and parenting support, life skills and counselling. From our centres in Colchester and Holland-on-Sea, we work alongside young people to build confidence, develop resilience and take positive steps towards a brighter future.

Role Overview

This rewarding volunteer role offers the chance to help young people build confidence, develop life skills and take positive steps towards employment, education or training.

Working one-to-one, and sometimes with small groups, you'll support young people to overcome barriers and work towards their goals. This could include help with benefits, opening bank accounts, getting ID, finding training opportunities or building confidence for the future. Through practical support and encouragement, you'll help young people feel more confident, independent and ready for the next step.

This role is ideal for someone who enjoys supporting young people, sharing their skills and helping others take positive steps towards their future.

Ideally, volunteers will be able to offer around two hours each week, but we can be flexible and discuss a level of involvement that works for you.

Why Volunteer with YES?

Volunteers are a valued part of the YES team and make a real difference to local young people and families. Whether you're sharing skills, leading an activity or offering encouragement, your time can help young people grow in confidence, learn new skills and feel connected to their community.

We'll provide training, guidance and ongoing support to help you feel confident in your role. You'll have regular contact with a member of the team and be part of a friendly organisation that aims to provide safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.

In return, you'll gain valuable experience, develop new skills, meet new people and help shape our services. Most importantly, you'll play a part in making a lasting difference to the lives of local young people and families.

Safeguarding and Professional Boundaries

At YES, creating safe, supportive environments for young people and families is everyone's responsibility. As a volunteer, you'll help people feel welcome, respected and valued.

We'll give you safeguarding training, guidance and support throughout your volunteering. While volunteers aren't expected to deal with concerns themselves, if you have any concerns about a young person's wellbeing or safety, you must share them with a member of the YES team so the right support can be provided.

To keep everyone safe, volunteers are expected to maintain appropriate boundaries and follow YES policies and procedures at all times.

Please note: This role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide one-to-one and/or group-based support to help young people overcome barriers and work towards their goals.
- Support young people to build confidence, develop practical life skills and increase their readiness for employment, education or training.
- Offer practical assistance with tasks such as accessing benefits, opening bank accounts, obtaining identification or official documents, completing applications and accessing relevant services.
- Build positive, supportive relationships that encourage young people to recognise their strengths and achieve their potential.
- Work within organisational policies, maintaining appropriate boundaries and helping to create a safe, inclusive and non-judgemental environment.

The Type of Person We're Looking For

We're looking for a friendly, encouraging volunteer who enjoys helping others build confidence and achieve their goals. You'll be a good listener, able to motivate and

support young people, and committed to helping them take positive steps towards a brighter future.

You will ideally have:

- Experience or knowledge of employability, welfare benefits, housing, education, training, mentoring, coaching or a related support role.
- Experience of supporting individuals on a one-to-one basis.
- An understanding of the practical and personal barriers some young people face when moving towards independence, education or employment.
- The ability to engage, encourage and motivate young people in a positive, inclusive and non-judgemental way.