



Volunteering with the Transitions Service

Information for Employers



Would your company like to make a difference to the lives of care experienced neurodivergent children & young people?

Just 24 hours of volunteer time really can make a huge difference to the life of a young person in Scotland.

Our transitions service needs volunteers to work in their own locality for just 1 hour a week for around 24 weeks, the equivalent of just one day!

If you are considering ways of developing your company's commitment to corporate social responsibility and would like to engage more with your local community then this opportunity could be just what you are looking for.



Our transitions service is fully funded by the Scottish Government through The Promise Scotland, an organisation that exists to support Scotland in keeping its promise to care experienced children and young people that they will grow up loved, safe, and respected.

No Mind Left Behind

For over twenty years Salvesen Mindroom Centre has been making a huge difference to the lives of neurodivergent children, young people, and their families. We are a charity that champions all forms of neurodiversity and supports all kinds of minds. Our mission is to be a leading centre for change in how we live, work and learn. We achieve this through support, education, and advocacy.

The Transitions Service

Since 2018 we have been working directly with young people who are approaching the transition from school into adult life. Our transitions service works alongside young people to help them to consider their strengths, interests and needs and to share their views regarding their post school transition, using our resource Future Me.

How we work

We meet 1-to-1 with young people, usually in school, for up to an hour a week over half a school year to work through 'Future Me'. We have found that the young people receiving our support develop a clearer idea of what they want for themselves, improve their self-esteem, and have more confidence in choosing and taking their next steps.

Future Me

The activities in Future Me help them to reflect on their hopes and dreams for the future, their skills and qualities, and some aspects of what living as an adult could mean for them.

In a nutshell, Future Me helps a young person to think about their own views on what they want to do when they leave High School so that they can tell other people.

Core activities:

Setting the Scene • My General Skills • My Independent Living Skills • My Personal Qualities • Sharing my Information • My next steps

Optional activities

Selected as part of the Future me process:

My Education & Training • My Career Plan • My Money • Independent Travel

Optional extras

Workplace Visit

We may arrange and facilitate a visit to a local employer. Young people learn more about being an employee, including what sort of expectations might be made of them, as well as what support they should expect in a workplace environment.

College Visit

An opportunity for young people to learn more about the difference between life in school and life at college, the expectations made of them there and what support they should expect in a college environment.

SQA Employability Award at SCQF Level 3 or 4

For students who would benefit from gaining a formal qualification we can tailor Future Me to focus on the delivery of everything needed to gain the SQA Employability Award at either SCQF Level 3 or Level 4.

What a volunteer does

Our volunteers each work alongside a young person to discuss and complete the activities in Future Me. They are usually based in a school near them, although we do sometimes support young people who are not able to attend school. Volunteers commit to just 1 hour each week during term time school hours, for around 5 months. Volunteers do not need any qualifications to work with us. Much more important is being the right type of person for this sort of work.

Qualities

Building a trusting relationship is key to being an effective transitions service volunteer. Volunteers need to be open-minded, understanding, patient, friendly and easy to talk to as well as being confident communicating with young people and professionals.

Requirements

The minimum requirements of all volunteers are:

- Age 18 or over
- Available for 1 hour a week
- Available for half a school year (around 5 months)
- Available during the school day (9am – 3pm)
- Completion of our training programme
- Completion of a criminal records background check through the Scottish Government PVG Scheme

Training

We provide comprehensive training, which covers an introduction to neurodiversity, child protection, how to use Future Me and other essentials. We also offer complimentary access to the professional training offered through our own training department.

The process

We suggest the following process for employees wishing to apply for a volunteer role:

- Secure your approval to apply, including an agreement on their level of commitment (see p7)
- Contact us to discuss volunteering
- Submit a formal application and agreement to a PVG Check
- Receive training
- Begin volunteering

We are grateful for whatever you can enable your employees to give.

Once an employee has completed a period of volunteering they will, of course, be welcome to undertake another subject to your approval.

Internal promotion

If you wish to use them, we will be happy to provide you with materials that can be used within your own internal network to advertise the opportunity, including promotional graphics and a digital copy of our 'Information for Volunteers.'

Contact us

To arrange a chat about opening opportunities for your employees to volunteer with the Transitions Service please:

Email: andrew@mindroom.org

Telephone: 0131 370 6730

For more information on the Salvesen Mindroom Centre, including our range of services as well as training on neurodiversity, please visit our website:

www.mindroom.org.uk

Published by and Copyright © Salvesen Mindroom Centre, 2024
Salvesen Mindroom Centre is a charity registered in Scotland: SC03047
Registered Office: Suite 4/3 Great Michael House, 14 Links Place, Edinburgh EH6 7EZ
A company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland: SC209656
www.mindroom.org | office: 0131 370 6731 | admin@mindroom.org