**Volunteer Role Description**

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|  | ***Information to be included as appropriate to your service.*** |
| Role Title: | NAS – Youth Justice Volunteer |
| Time Commitment: | Availability to attend scheduled Youth Justice Panel meetings as required. This includes joining a rota that is agreed between volunteers to attend at least 2 panels per month.  Some panels are held on evenings, whilst some are held during office hours.  A minimum commitment of **two years** is preferred. |
| Location: | * Various venues across Northumberland. * Efforts will be made to engage you in opportunities close to your home. * Some panels are held virtually. |
| Specific tasks and activities: | 1. **Participate in Youth Justice Panels:** Contribute to meetings with young people, their families, and other panel members to address young people’s offending and agree on restorative actions and plans. 2. **Support Restorative Justice:** Encourage young people to understand the impact of their actions and take responsibility through constructive dialogue. 3. **Collaborate with Stakeholders:** Work closely with other panel members, Youth Justice staff, and community representatives to ensure positive outcomes. 4. **Promote Rehabilitation:** Help create and agree on individualised plans for young people to make amends and avoid reoffending. 5. **Maintain Confidentiality:** Handle all information about young people and their families with the utmost discretion. 6. **Adhere to Procedures:** Follow all relevant policies and guidance provided by the Youth Justice Service. |
| Training: | 1. **Volunteer Induction:** Overview of the Youth Justice Panel’s purpose, policies, and procedures. 2. **Restorative Justice Training:** Training on restorative practices and conflict resolution. 3. **Safeguarding Training:** Understanding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people. 4. **Professional Boundaries:** Guidance on maintaining appropriate volunteer-participant relationships. |
| Expenses / equipment provided | Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. |
| Skills and qualities required | * **Empathy and Understanding:** Ability to engage with young people and their families in a non-judgmental way. * **Communication Skills:** Effective verbal and listening skills to foster open and constructive discussions. * **Teamwork:** Willingness to work collaboratively with a diverse panel of volunteers and professionals. * **Commitment to Restorative Justice:** Belief in the importance of helping young people repair harm and rebuild trust. * **Resilience:** Ability to handle sensitive situations with professionalism and care. * **Confidentiality:** A strong commitment to maintaining privacy. * **Child First:** Ability to acknowledge and understand that the youth justice system should treat children as children, see the whole child, and focus on better outcomes for children. |
| Age requirements | Volunteers must be aged **18 or older**. |
| Benefits to volunteer | * Make a meaningful impact by supporting young people to make positive changes in their lives. * Gain valuable experience in restorative justice. * Develop communication and interpersonal skills. * Be part of a dedicated team working to improve community safety and cohesion. |
| DBS check | A **full enhanced DBS certificate** is required, provided as part of the recruitment process. |
| Contact details for application | Volunteer@northumberland.gov.uk |
| Signed by supervisor |  |
| Signed by volunteer |  |