

## **Buddy Network Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

North Yorkshire Youth (NYY) is piloting a volunteer befriending project across North Yorkshire. The aim of the project is to support 16-19yr olds by helping them to gain confidence, meet their goals and reach independence.

### **Which young people will this pilot scheme support?**

Currently referrals are being taken only from Targeted Youth Support (TYS) workers. TYS is part of the North Yorkshire County Council Youth Support Service (NYCC YSS) and offers help to young people aged 11-19 (or 11-25 for young people with special needs) to work through issues that might prevent them from progressing positively in life. Referral forms are available from NYY.

### **What will a volunteer Buddy do?**

A volunteer buddy will develop a relationship with a young person once that young person has moved on from TYS.

Together, the buddy and young person (and TYS worker in some instances) will develop a befriending agreement and identify progression routes and goals. The buddy and young person will meet regularly for a period of approximately 6 months. Meetings will follow a simple framework to allow progression and reflection.

### **A volunteer Buddy:**

- Is an additional supporter helping young people to reach their potential, rather than a replacement for a TYS worker.
- Will be trained and supported to provide the appropriate level of help and support to a young person.

- Will undergo an intensive selection process and will be offered a range of mandatory and developmental training.
- Is not the end of the road for a young person. If a young person develops additional needs or previous issues return, the young person will be referred back into TYS.
- Will be supported by a Youth Development Worker from NYY.
- Will be invited to network meetings to meet up with other buddies from across the area.

## **How will the matching process work?**

NYY will use the information provided at application to make a safe and appropriate match between a young person and a Buddy, based, where possible, on common interests.

## **What support will a Buddy receive?**

All Buddies will receive induction training and have the option to undertake youth work training. Each buddy will be supported primarily by an NYY Youth Development Worker, though other practitioners may also be available if there are specific concerns about the young person.

Buddies will have a clear set of procedures and processes to support their activity, including lone working safeguards and reporting forms. Expenses for travel and refreshments will be paid to the Buddy as appropriate.

## **How will activity be recorded?**

Each Buddy will record meetings with the young person, along with details of progression, in a 'Buddy Log'. NYY will retain the buddy log once the relationship between the buddy and young person has come to a conclusion.

## **How do I apply to be a buddy?**

To express your interest in becoming a buddy and request an application pack, please contact Clare Yates on 01845 522 145 or [clare@nyy.org.uk](mailto:clare@nyy.org.uk)