

Mentor Task Description

Purpose

To provide intensive group and one-to-one, time-bound support, guidance, and encouragement to young people (usually between the ages of 13 and 17) who have been identified to take part in our mentoring project; this will include refugees and asylum-seekers, young people at-risk of exclusion from school, and young people at-risk of extremism.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. Actively develop a positive, supportive relationship with mentees
2. Attend and participate in PeaceMaker's weekly sessional project activities
3. Serve as a positive role model and friend
4. Help mentees set positive goals and work towards achieving these
5. Maintain a non-judgmental approach and follow anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practices

Other Duties and Responsibilities

1. Attend and participate in mentor training and development sessions, volunteer support meetings and supervision
2. Complete weekly evaluations to track the mentees' progress over the course and contribute to project evaluation
3. Observe PeaceMaker policies and procedures during the course of all volunteering activities
4. Maintain confidentiality, whilst having regard for child protection and issues of disclosure
5. Maintain a professional, open, honest relationship with the mentee, ensuring they are aware of the boundaries of the relationship and issues of confidentiality and disclosure
6. Identify and communicate your support needs and make effective use of support mechanisms provided by PeaceMaker
7. Take responsibility for own health and safety and follow PeaceMaker guidelines to reduce risks to self and young people
8. Liaise with PeaceMaker staff as appropriate and required

Qualifications

- A willingness to learn and participate in training
- A commitment to invest necessary time and energy in this programme
- An ability to accept and relate to young people who may not share the mentor's lifestyle or values and a respect and tolerance for individual's differences
- Friendliness, enthusiasm, maturity and sensitivity

Induction and Training

- An orientation and training programme will equip you with the skills necessary to successfully mentor young people
- The training will include a session on equality and diversity issues to ensure that all mentors understand PeaceMaker's commitment to equality and our anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory ethos
- Project-specific training will be provided to ensure that mentors understand issues and challenges that may arise in regard to refugees and asylum-seekers, young people at-risk of exclusion from school, and young people at-risk of extremism
- From May to July, mentors will be able to participate in a course at the University of Manchester on 'mentoring as informal education' to reflect on different methods of mentoring. (All course expenses are funded by PeaceMaker.)

Time Commitment

- After the initial training, mentors must commit to one three-hour session per week during term time.
- The minimum commitment to mentoring is twelve-months.
- From May to July, mentors attend the university course for two hours a week in the evening, in addition to the three-hour mentoring session.
- Other occasional commitments include: supervision meetings that take place every six months, group evaluation meetings that take place after the completion of each project, and additional training before new projects begin.

Time and Location of Projects

- Most mentoring projects will be delivered in the evenings between 6:00 and 9:00. The project for young people at-risk of exclusion from school takes place in the afternoon during school time.
- All projects will be delivered at PeaceMaker's offices either in Oldham or Manchester. Occasionally, sessions will include trips out for teambuilding or educational activities.

Benefits

- Satisfaction of helping someone achieve goals and raise their aspirations
- Better understanding of young people and the challenges that they face
- Building relationships with young people and peers that you would not have the opportunity to know otherwise
- Ongoing support and training from PeaceMaker for the mentor's personal growth and development