

## Career Development

- ▶ The Youth Justice Board have a number of opportunities open to volunteers. The Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space provides on-line learning to volunteers: [www.yjils.org.uk](http://www.yjils.org.uk)
- ▶ In addition the Derbyshire Youth Offending Service offers a programme of ongoing learning and development, with monthly training sessions being available, which provide an appropriate access point for staff wishing to develop a career in youth justice.
- ▶ References for future employment will normally only be provided when the individual concerned has been volunteering with the YOS for a minimum of one year.

## Equal Opportunities

Derbyshire Youth Offending Service's policy is to provide services fairly to all sections of the community and to give equal treatment to its service users regardless of their age, disability, HIV status, marital status, race, religion, sex, sexuality or national origin.

## Data Protection

Personal information is always treated as confidential in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

## Complaints

Any complaint about the service you receive should be addressed in writing to:

Head of Youth Offending Service  
FREEPOST RRJH-UJYZ-UJSE  
County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG  
01629 538233

**email:** [youthoffendingservice@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:youthoffendingservice@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## contacts

### Local Offices

56 Cobden Road  
Chesterfield S40 4TD  
01629 537615

Kingfisher House  
Cotmanhay Road  
Ilkeston DE7 8HU  
01629 531975

Area Education Office  
Kents Bank Road  
Buxton SK17 9HJ  
01629 531085

Connexions  
Rink House, Rink Road  
Swadlincote  
DE11 8JL  
01283 229709

**For more information about youth justice visit**  
[www.yjb.gov.uk](http://www.yjb.gov.uk)

# Volunteering with Derbyshire Youth Offending Service

**DERBYSHIRE**  
YOUTH  
OFFENDING  
SERVICE

## Introduction

Derbyshire Youth Offending Service offers a range of volunteering opportunities to work with young people. The Service is committed to developing the skills of volunteers to deliver the highest quality services.

This will be achieved by ensuring that all volunteers are given rigorous basic training, enhanced by additional specialist training where appropriate.

## Volunteering as a Referral Order Panel Member

Referral Orders are one way of responding to young people who commit offences. Young people are directed by the Youth Court to attend a Youth Offender Panel meeting. At this meeting the young person will need to take responsibility for their offending and to agree a programme of activities designed to stop them getting into trouble again. The Panel process also provides a significant opportunity to meet the needs of victims of youth crime. A Panel is made up of two volunteers recruited directly from the community alongside one member of the Youth Offending Service. They meet with the young person and parents/carers to discuss the offence and agree a contract between the young person and the Panel.

## What do I need to qualify?

You must be over 18 years of age. You need

- ▶ patience, good judgement and objectivity
- ▶ commitment and be reliable
- ▶ good listening and communication skills
- ▶ the ability to relate to young people

## Will I be trained?

You will be given a full induction programme to become a volunteer with the Derbyshire Youth offending Service, in addition specialist training will be provided in accordance with guidance from The Youth Justice Board to become a fully trained Panel member. You will be given a programme of ongoing training and support whilst being a Community Panel member.

## What about my other work?

Panels can be arranged around your existing commitments.

## Volunteering as a YISP Mentor

The Youth Inclusion Support Partnership (YISP) team works with young people throughout Derbyshire, aged between 8 and 15 who are at risk of getting involved in anti-social or offending behaviour. Mentors may be asked to support caseworkers at group activities or on a 1-1 basis with young people on the programme.

## What do I need to qualify?

You must be aged 16 years or over. You need

- ▶ Good listening and communication skills
- ▶ Be a good role model
- ▶ A commitment to support young people and help them to make positive changes in their behaviour

## Will I be trained?

You will be given a full programme of induction training, in addition you will be given specialist training to become a mentor with the YISP. A programme of ongoing training will also be available, covering a wide range of subjects related to working with young people in the criminal justice system. Ongoing support and guidance will be provided to all mentors.

## Volunteering as a Buddy Plus Mentor

Buddy Plus is a mentoring project for young people between the ages of 8 and 18 who have literacy, numeracy or lifestyle problems and who are at risk of social or educational exclusion or of committing anti-social or offending behaviour. It operates across the whole of Derbyshire and mentors will listen to and take an interest in the young person in a safe learning environment whilst supporting them in a time of transition in their life. It will last for a significant and sustained period of time.

The aims of Buddy Plus are to improve the young person's self esteem through a positive relationship with a mentor, their confidence through achievement, to improve basic numeracy, literacy and life skills and to provide positive role models for the young person and to reduce the potential of offending behaviour.

## What do I need to qualify?

You must be over 18 years of age. You need

- ▶ Empathy with young people and a wish to be a positive role model for them in their community
- ▶ Patience, to be reliable and have good communication skills
- ▶ To be non-judgemental and broad-minded
- ▶ Two hours a week to spare

## Will I be trained?

You will be given a full programme of induction training, providing an initial training programme accredited to Open College Network at Level 2. Ongoing training and support will be provided to equip you to undertake the role of mentor.