



## **Volunteer Buddy for people with learning disabilities**

CVA are delivering this project in partnership with Croydon Mencap who will provide expert advice and support throughout.

**Do you have an interest in helping people with learning disabilities?  
Would you like to support them to try new experiences and be part of the wider Croydon community?**

As a Volunteer Buddy, you will support individuals with learning disabilities into new roles within volunteer organisations in the borough of Croydon.

Covid-19 has naturally changed the nature of this project. Initially the Buddy role will involve getting to know the Supported Volunteer and engaging in some group and 1 to 1 activities remotely. Many people with learning disabilities also have other underlying health conditions and are therefore often more vulnerable in terms of the Covid-19 virus.

The individuals in need of support will each have their own experiences and circumstances as well as interests, not just those designed specifically for people with learning disabilities. We want to equip them with the support they need to take steps back out into the community safely.

We are looking for Volunteer Buddies who have the time on a weekly basis to take part in a social activity and to have a chat. This may be online, such as on Zoom or WhatsApp video, or over the phone.

Part of the Buddy's role will be to encourage people to try new activities either online or in person following safe social distancing advice.

Eventually it will develop to assist the volunteers to begin their roles in the supporting volunteer organisations.

The Buddy role is ideal for individuals wanting to provide real hands-on support to people with learning disabilities, and those with an interest in community-based services.

You'll need to show empathy and be able to build a friendly relationship while maintaining boundaries.

## **Key responsibilities of the Volunteer Buddy are to: -**

- Work with Supported Volunteers to support them to achieve their goals
- Establish and maintain contact with the Supported Volunteers throughout the relationship
- Complete supporting documentation and end of support report for each Supported Volunteer seen
- Support Supported Volunteers to engage with new activities
- Attend meetings with the Supported Volunteers (as and when necessary and under mutual agreement)
- Be self-motivated and use your initiative
- Maintain confidentiality and professional boundaries at all times
- Attend training, three-way review meetings, and support sessions
- Volunteer Buddies will be required to: -
  - Complete an application form (online or hard copy)
  - Take part in a face to face interview (online or social distancing)
  - Complete online training including learning disabilities awareness training
  - Undertake a DBS check

We ask that you only apply if you are able to commit to being a Buddy for at least 6 months and have at least ½ a day availability per week.

**We look forward to receiving your applications!**

**Application link** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VolunteerBuddy>