



Community Volunteer Mentoring

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Community Volunteer Mentor?

A Community Volunteer Mentor is someone that encourages and provides support for someone who would benefit (a mentee).

Who can become a Volunteer Mentor?

Anyone over 21! Maybe a member of the community or an employee of a local business that wants to give back to the community. A mentor will want to share their experiences, listen and work together to positively support someone else who is moving on in some way. All mentors will be DBS checked, referenced, interviewed and trained.

What will the Volunteer Mentor get out of it?

Mentors will receive two-days of comprehensive training, lots of support, peer encouragement, a certificate, ongoing support and the satisfaction of helping someone else. They will develop a range of new skills that are of value in every walk of life.

Who are the mentees?

We are also looking for mentees in Norfolk and Suffolk aged 15-35. They may be living in supported housing, leaving care, moving on, out of custody or homeless and will readily accept some support whilst they settle.

What does the mentee get out of it?

The mentee may be able to build a relationship with someone who has been in a similar position to them or simply with life and work experience. They will get encouragement, knowledge and guidance from someone who can support them in understanding their responsibilities, help them to navigate complex situations, set goals and are enthusiastic about it.

Why do the mentees need support?

Moving into your first home or to any kind of independence is daunting and exciting at the same time. Most people have questions they want answered and are

impatient to get everything sorted so that they can enjoy their new-found independence. Sorting it all out can be a challenge and if someone doesn't have lots of family support, it can be even harder and people can quickly find themselves in debt or even homeless. Mentees will be people who will benefit from this extra support, goal-setting and encouragement.

What will we be doing?

Mentors and mentees will meet face to face. They will discuss their current situation and be open and honest about themselves. The mentor will be encouraged to talk about what they might need help with and what they may want to discuss, including a focus on money skills development (this will be covered in the training). The relationship may benefit from a plan of actions, but doesn't have to.

How long will the relationship last?

The relationship can last up to a year in the first instance. It will work best if they mentor and mentee can start the relationship before the mentee moves to independence, as this is often a really hectic time.

How often will we meet?

It works best if mentors and mentees meet regularly. Some may want to meet weekly and others every two weeks. It depends on the relationship and commitments of mentor and mentee. Some may make phone calls or send emails between meetings.

What if the mentor or mentee want to end the relationship?

Sometime pairings don't work and that's ok. If either the mentor or mentee wants to end it then this is best done in a supported way so that neither person feels let down or hurt. Your Own Place will carefully manage this and will give the mentee and mentor lots of opportunities to say how the relationship is going.

Where will mentors and mentees meet?

The mentee may invite the mentor to their new home. Every case will be judged individually. The mentee will NOT visit the mentor at their home. If the mentee does not want to meet in their home, they can meet in a café or another place of safety.