

Volunteer Buddy Role Profile

The purpose of this role is to:

Support someone with a learning disability or autism to participate in an activity or project that is important to them.

It is the people we support who decide exactly what they want to get out of a match with a volunteer. In all cases, you will need to provide support that:

- Respects the rights of the people you support, and their decisions and choices
- Enables them to make decisions about the things that matter to them
- Listens to them and encourages their communication (you will find out their preferred method of communication during your induction)
- Encourages and empowers them, if necessary, to try new things and overcome their fears
- Encourages them to develop new skills and to recognise and use their talents
- Is safe, including following Brandon Trust's safeguarding policy and procedures, and raising any concerns appropriately.
- Where possible, connects people to others with whom they have shared interests and ideas

You will follow Brandon Trust's policies, procedures and guidelines, as they apply to volunteers, including the Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity Policies and Code of Conduct.

You will communicate effectively with relevant Brandon Trust staff.



Volunteer Buddy Person Specification

Personal characteristics (essential):

- An encouraging and empowering approach to working with people with learning disabilities
- Empathetic and non-judgemental
- Patient, adaptable, and calm
- Enthusiastic, positive – and fun!
- Reliable and punctual

Skills (essential):

- Excellent verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people, including the people we support, their support workers, and others in the community
- Ability to empathise with people and their interests and aspirations

Experience (desirable):

- Experience of working with people, especially in a one-to-one capacity (e.g. as a mentor, befriender or buddy etc.)

