

Versus Arthritis

Volunteer Role Description

Role title:	Parent Contact Volunteer.
Staff contact:	Young People and Families Manager/Worker.
Location:	In your local area/region and online.
Time commitment:	Flexible, depending on when/where the meetings/ training/ events are held and would be discussed with you. Most of our activities take place at the weekends. We will ask you to commit to at least two activities, in addition to training and planning sessions.

How you will make a difference

You will be helping the Young People and Families team to provide information and support to other parents and carers of young people (aged 0 – 24) living with arthritis. The role involves sharing your experiences and offering feedback to the service from a parent's perspective.

This is an exciting opportunity which will enable you to make a huge difference in the lives of other parents living with a child with arthritis. It will give you the opportunity to share your experiences with others and increase your personal development.

We are looking for someone who

- Is a parent, carer, a close friend or family member of a child with arthritis or a related condition e.g. lupus.
- Can be a positive role model for other parents.
- Is open to having fun supporting peers.
- Can help support and encourage other parents at events and workshops.
- Has the ability to build relationships with other parents, young people and the rest of the team.

- Can help advocate and raise awareness that young people live with arthritis too.
- Can commit to the philosophy of self-management and to the Social Model of Disability or, can demonstrate willingness and commitment in learning and developing those skills and behaviours.
- Can communicate well.
- Is able to be punctual, reliable and committed.
- Is caring, sensitive and empathetic to all people regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, faith and culture.

What you will be doing

- Attending and contributing to training events, family days and meetings run by the Young People and Families Service.
- Empowering people by giving them information and support to find solutions that suit their situation, without telling them what you think they should do.
- Attending workshops to increase knowledge and skills of working with young people and families, self-management and rheumatic conditions.
- Developing information and resources, such as information for teachers about how arthritis affects young people and how they can be supported in school.
- Providing occasional feedback to donors about the impact of the service.
- Raising awareness of the service with other families such as within a hospital setting.
- Phone calls to support other parents.
- Act where necessary to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

What we ask of you

- Follow all relevant Versus Arthritis' policies and abide by our values and behaviours.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to your staff contact – Young People and Families Manager/Worker.
- Follow Young People and Families guidance.

Practicalities

- You will speak to a staff contact to talk through the role and agree if this is the role for you.
- This role will bring you into contact with vulnerable adults and children and is subject to safer recruitment practices. Therefore, we will ask you to provide the names of two people, one of which must have known you for at least two years, who can offer a reference for you; this could be a colleague or a friend but not a family member.
- To support safe recruitment, you will be asked to undertake an identity check and the appropriate level of criminal record disclosure screening: **This role involves working with vulnerable adults and children. We will require the volunteer to have an Enhanced Criminal Record Check including Child Barring Lists, dependant on nation specific requirements and guidelines.**

Before you begin

- You will be required to complete the organisation induction and all mandatory training for the role.

What you will get in return

- The knowledge that you are making a difference to the lives of young people and families living with arthritis.
- Induction into your role.
- Opportunities to meet people and make friends.
- Wider accessibility support to ensure you are fully able to participate.
- Opportunities to add new skills and experiences to your CV or personal statement.
- References for you for your personal development.
- Support to move into wider volunteer and involvement opportunities.
- Ongoing support and supervision from a named member of staff who will support you with practical guidance.

- Reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses (see the expenses policy). In most cases, we will pay for accommodation, meals and travel for you in advance.
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Safeguarding and Criminal Record Check

Versus Arthritis is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. During the recruitment process we will undertake safer recruitment practices and relevant checks to ensure applicants are suitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This role DOES require a Criminal Record check.

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