

# Side-by-Side

## Befriender's Role

The befriender's role is to meet regularly with the named young person for a short walk, during which they can chat, have some fun and some fresh air and exercise! The key responsibility for the befriender is to promote positive emotional and physical wellbeing, to extend the young person's support network and to build a wholesome and positive relationship to the benefit of the young person concerned.

This will involve a number of pre-arranged walks, with parental consent, on a one-to-one basis on a previously designated route in the local community.

The befriender will have robust supervision available in the form of regular check-in meetings with the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator or another senior experienced member of the corps.

The befriender will write records of all meetings while keeping a young person's privacy. Confidentiality cannot be promised as per the Salvation Army's Safe & Sound safeguarding policy.

### **The befriender is required:**

- To have attended and completed Safe & Sound training.
- To adhere to the role description, Code of Conduct and safeguarding policy.
- To attend the Side-by-Side befriender briefing meeting.
- To be a positive and encouraging support to the young person.
- To take a genuine interest in the life of the young person while at the same time recognising appropriate and consistent boundaries.
- To arrange the walk via the parents/carers and not give out any personal contact details to the young person.
- To write short walk reports after each meeting and to store these safely.
- To know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is (and deputy) and how to contact them in the event of a safeguarding concern.
- To refer any concerns regarding a young person to the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator and/or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- To ensure that for each walk the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator, young person and parents/carers are aware of and agree the proposed route, start time of the session, end time of the session.
- To receive regular support check-ins with the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator or another senior experienced corps member.