

Side-by-Side

Would you like to be a befriender?

Side-by-Side is a one model of being with young people during a time of social distancing. It is a 'walk and talk' befriending scheme, in which a caring and committed adult meets up regularly with a young person for a short walk, during which they can chat, have some fun, some fresh air and exercise. Working safely within Covid-19 guidance and restrictions, Side-by-Side offers someone to listen and encourage, at a time when young people need connection more than ever.

The target age group for young people is 7 to 17 years, but we would be willing to chat further to support younger children or teenagers older than 17 if required.

We are inviting adults from our corps to become a befriender. You don't need to be an experienced youth worker, just someone with some free time and a heart to be with young people. Your key responsibility is to promote positive emotional and physical wellbeing, to extend the young person's support network and to signpost to further support where necessary.

In order to become a befriender you will need to attend Safe and Sound Level 1 training, have a DBS check and provide two references. You will also need to attend a briefing meeting which will outline your role and responsibilities. The minimum commitment will be to meet up with one young person for a 30-45 minute walk, ideally once a week. In addition you will have regular support check-in with the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator, to whom you can reach out to on an informal basis whenever you feel you need support, whether that's asking a simple practical question or raising concerns around safeguarding.

We are so grateful that you're taking on this role or considering doing it. We hope that you will also be blessed by the opportunity to be with a young person on their journey.

You can contact our Side-by-Side Co-ordinator at any time throughout the programme for information or with any questions or concerns. If at any time you have any safeguarding concerns you can also contact our Safeguarding Lead.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

SIDE-BY-SIDE CO-ORDINATOR:

Contact details:

SAFEGUARDING LEAD:

Contact details: