Independent Visitor Scheme - Questions and Answers

1. What is an Independent Visitor (IV)?

East Riding of Yorkshire Council runs an Independent Visitor Volunteer Scheme which provides advice, support and befriending to Children Looked After living in the care of the local authority. An IV is carefully matched with a young person and meets with their young person once a month, to take part in trips and activities. This one to one relationship can involve anything from bowling and the cinema, to kicking a football in the park. The IV may at times be an advocate to the young person depending on their individual needs - most importantly the IV and young person just have some fun! Anyone over the age of 18 can volunteer with the scheme, however we need to ensure the IV is independent for the young person.

Volunteers do not need any formal qualifications but do need to be able to relate well to children and young people and to have a genuine interest in their welfare. You also need to commit where possible to visiting a child or young person for at least two years. In return IVs receive on going training and support as well as receiving agreed expenses.

2. Do I need a car?

With the scheme covering the whole of East Riding we would prefer that you do have a car or the use of a car, as you will have to travel to collect the young person etc, although we wouldn’t turn a volunteer away due to not being able to drive.

3. Is there a budget do we have?

There is a budget of £20 a month to cover activities.

4. Do I get travel expenses?

Yes, we cover travelling to and from the young person’s home and cover mileage for the agreed activity with the young person.

5. What happens after I apply?

After you have completed the application form we will contact you to discuss the next stage and possibly ask you to attend an interview. If you are successful at the interview we will invite you to attend the training course.

6. Will you need references?

Yes you will need two references; we ask that one could possibly be from a work setting. These will be requested after the interview.
7. What training will I receive?
You will receive training on different areas including safeguarding, values and beliefs, communication and boundaries; the Children Looked After process and more. You will also meet an Independent Visitor and young person. It is usually held over two evenings or a full day. Dates and location will be advised closer to the time.

8. Do I need a DBS?
Yes, we pay for the DBS and apply for this after the interview, however if you already have a current East Riding DBS we may be able to use this.

9. How will I be matched up with a young person?
At your interview we will ask you what activities, interests you have; this will enable us to make a match with the appropriate young person.

10. When would I meet the young person for the first time?
Once you have completed all your training and the team have your DBS, references and car insurance confirming you can transport young people we will match you up as soon as possible. We will arrange a time to introduce you to the young person and go through funding, confidentiality, activities etc. Once this visit has been done then it is just a case of when you and the young person are available to start your visits.

11. Do I inform the team of visits etc?
Yes, training will be given and what needs to be done, but you will work closely with the team throughout your IV relationship.

12. Is there support once you become an IV?
Yes, you will receive support from the team and the chance to meet up with other IVs to discuss any issues and undertake training etc.

If there are any other questions or would like to apply please don’t hesitate to contact the team on 01482 565560 or rights4u@eastriding.gov.uk