



<b>Role Title: Volunteer Befriender</b>	<b>Responsible to: Project and Public Engagement Officer</b> <i>who is in turn responsible to the Rescare trustees via the trustee for Operations</i>
<b>Where (Location):</b>	Volunteer will be matched to a family and relatives within local distance to the volunteer's own home. This will be supported by Rescare staff and Trustees.
<b>Time commitment:</b>	Negotiable with Rescare and the family/relatives. A minimum of an overall 12 month's commitment is required to provide consistency.
<b>About Rescare</b>	<p>Rescare was founded in 1984 by parents and friends of people affected by the closure of large NHS hospitals for people with learning disability. Run "by families for families", Rescare is based in Stockport and has members all over the UK.</p> <p>Throughout all this time Rescare has been available to members and their families to offer independent advice and help guide through problems with learning disability placements. We maintain a telephone helpline Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and an email contact. We have expertise and experience in this field which is available to all our volunteers.</p>
<b>Role:</b>	To provide peace of mind to the parents (who may be elderly) or relatives of people with learning disabilities. Ensuring that advice, support, and information are available in a timely fashion. The role might well involve helping relatives keep in touch with their loved one or the carers.
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To visit the relatives with whom you have been matched, building a relationship of friendship and trust.</li> <li>• To give the relatives some company and/or enable them to get out and about or pursue a leisure interest for example.</li> <li>• To complete a visit sheet after each visit and to participate in regular supervision with the Befriending Coordinator.</li> <li>• To liaise, at times, with Rescare staff or other agencies as appropriate.</li> <li>• To uphold Rescare core principles, vision, culture, and values and abide by the policies and procedures as per the volunteer handbook.</li> </ul>



Qualities and Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be reliable and have a genuine interest in the desire to make a difference in the lives of people with learning disabilities.</li><li>• Honest and trustworthy.</li><li>• Good communication skills.</li><li>• Patience and a warm and friendly attitude.</li></ul>
Training and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will be required to attend Rescare’s befriending induction training and participate in further training and/or networking events which may be offered.</li><li>• Ongoing support and supervision will be given by the project officer either in person or via zoom/telephone.</li><li>• Reimbursement of agreed expenses such as mileage or public transport costs as appropriate.</li></ul>
Any other Requirements	Due to the vulnerable nature of our families and relatives, we will require two references and a Basic DBS check which Rescare will fund. Further details will be discussed with you at recruitment.