

VOLUNTEER

INDEPENDENT VISITORS ROLE DESCRIPTION

The overall aim of Tros Gynnal Plant is to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people 'looked after' or 'in need', and enable them to have a voice in decisions, which affect their lives. By providing Independent Visitors (IVs), Tros Gynnal Plant aims to improve the quality of life for children and young people 'looked after', provide adult role models who are external to the system and contribute to the safeguards to protect children and young people 'looked after' in addition to assisting them having their voice heard. The relationship between Independent Visitor and the child requires long term commitment, where the IV is linked to a child, as their friend and supporter.

Purpose

- To visit, befriend and support a young person who is in a foster home or residential care
- To enable a young person to have contact with someone who is independent of the Social Services Department
- To provide an 'adult friend' for a young person who has little or no contact with members of his/her own family
- To encourage a young person to have a voice and exercise his/her own rights

Accountable to:

The Independent Visitor Scheme Co-ordinator/Project Leader

Relationships with:

Independent Visitors will be develop positive working relationships with

- The scheme co-ordinator/Project Leader
- The young person
- The young person's social worker
- The young person's carers
- Internal project staff

Key Tasks

- To visit the child or young person on a regular basis (Frequency to be decided). Develop a relationship as an adult friend that primarily is a social one and in their 'best interests'.

- To encourage such a child or young person to fulfil their true potential by participating in activities as appropriate and agreeable that promotes their social, emotional and educational well being.
- To ensure that the young person's voice and wishes are being heard and considered, in all areas affecting their lives.
- To encourage children and young people to exercise their rights and participate in such decisions.
- To be aware of and seek to promote any needs specifically related to their race, culture, language, disability, gender or sexual orientation and to challenge discrimination.
- To keep in touch with the scheme co-ordinator/Project Leader.
- To keep in touch with others who have a responsibility for the young person as necessary.
- To respect confidentiality, providing that the child or young person is not at risk of significant harm.

Volunteering Conditions

The Independent Visitor will be expected to work unsociable hours, in an attempt to make the scheme available and accessible to children and young people. It is therefore expected that visits and activities would be after school hours and requires some weekend work.

The vast majority of the work will take place outside of the office base in foster homes and residential units.

Additional Information

- Independent Visitors will be expected to attend scheme review meetings
- Independent Visitors will be invited to participate in relevant training events
- Independent Visitors are actively encouraged to attend regular Supervision/ support group meetings
- Independent Visitors will be engaged as volunteers. However, expenses are available.