

Versus Arthritis

Volunteer Role Description

Role title:	Youth Contact Volunteer.
Staff contact:	Young People and Families Manager/ Worker.
Location:	In your local area/region and online.
Time commitment:	Flexible, depending on when/where the meetings/ training/ events are held and would be discussed with you. Time can vary but we hope you can commit to at least two online and face-to-face meetings a year in the UK. This could include travel and overnight stays, occasional activities between meetings, induction and essential training.

How you will make a difference

Versus Arthritis is here to make sure that people with arthritis have the support and information they need to live well with their condition.

You will be supporting the Young People and Families' team to develop and provide support and self-management activities for young people living with arthritis.

You will co-lead events, residentials and workshops with the aim of reducing the isolation many young people with arthritis feel. Building their confidence and supporting them to better manage their condition.

We are looking for someone who

- Has lived experience of having arthritis or a rheumatic condition.
- Has previous experience of being a participant in our self-management offer or an ability to demonstrate willingness and commitment in learning and developing those skills.

- Is sensitive to individual needs and understand that everyone's experience of arthritis is different.
- Can be a positive role model for children and young people with arthritis.
- Is enthusiastic about creating positive change.
- Is a team player who can listen and respect the views of others.
- Can build relationships with young people and the rest of the team.
- Can communicate well.
- Is able to be punctual, reliable and committed.
- Is over the age of 16 and under the age of 30 at the point of applying to volunteer.
- Is caring, sensitive and empathetic to all people regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, faith and culture.

What you will be doing

- Supporting the events, such as activity weekends, training, planning sessions and family days, run by the Young People and Families' Service, for children and young people with arthritis (aged up to 25 years old) this may also involve occasional work with families.
- Taking part in and leading workshops to increase children and young people's knowledge and skills to self-manage their condition.
- Helping with developing information and resources about how arthritis affects young people.
- Shaping our Young People and Families' service offer. Act where necessary to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

What we ask of you

- Follow all relevant Versus Arthritis' policies and abide by our values and behaviours.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to your staff contact – Young People and Families Manager/Worker.
- Follow Young People and Families guidance.

Practicalities

- You will speak to a staff contact to talk through the role and agree if this is the role for you.
- This role will bring you into contact with vulnerable adults and is subject to safer recruitment practices therefore we will ask you to provide the names of two people, one of which must have known you for at least two years, who can offer a reference for you; this could be a colleague or a friend but not a family member.
- To support safe recruitment, you will be asked to undertake an identity check and the appropriate level of criminal record disclosure screening:
This role involves working with vulnerable adults and children. We will require the volunteer to have an Enhanced Criminal Record Check including Child Barring Lists, dependant on nation specific requirements and guidelines.

Before you begin

- You will be required to complete the organisation induction and all mandatory training for the role.

What you will get in return

- The knowledge that you are making a difference to the lives of young people living with arthritis.
- Induction into your role.
- Opportunities to meet people and make friends.
- IT equipment where needed.
- Wider accessibility support to ensure you are fully able to participate.
- Opportunities to add new skills and experiences to your CV or personal statement.
- References for you for your personal development.
- Support to move into wider volunteer and involvement opportunities.
- Ongoing support and supervision from a named member of staff who will support you with practical guidance.

- Reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses (see the expenses policy). In most cases, we will pay for accommodation, meals and travel for you in advance.
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Safeguarding and Criminal Record Check

Versus Arthritis is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. During the recruitment process we will undertake safer recruitment practices and relevant checks to ensure applicants are suitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This role DOES require a Criminal Record check.

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