

Introduction:

The NEPACS Youth Projects provide an opportunity for young people who are visiting family members in prison to relax, have fun, chat about their concerns with a trusted adult and feel less isolated and stigmatised. This work was piloted at HMP Durham's Visitors' Centre where there was a youth room used exclusively by 8 – 18 year old visitors. It has since been extended to the women's prison, HMP Low Newton, where a well-used, well-equipped youth room has been established, to HMP Frankland, a high security prison where young people routinely visit over many years and to Holme House prison in Stockton.

General overview of role:

Volunteers in this role will provide support and information in a relaxed environment for young people affected by the imprisonment of a family member.

Role description:

Main tasks will include:

- providing a range of fun activities for young people in the Youth Zones based at the Visitors' Centres
- identifying the needs of young people visiting prison
- assisting with trips and leisure activities for young people
- offering emotional support to young people through phonecalls, with the potential of meeting up with the young person on a 1:1 basis

Skills required:

- Passion for supporting children and young people
- Friendly and approachable
- Strong interpersonal and diplomacy skills
- Empathy towards young people experiencing a difficult time
- Willingness to volunteer in all three youth rooms if possible
- Confidence
- Non judgmental in outlook
- Experience and/or qualifications in youth work would be helpful in this role

Location:

HMP&YOI Low Newton and HMP Frankland in Durham, and HMP Holme House in Stockton.

Expenses:

Public transport costs or mileage up to 22 mile radius at 40p per mile.

Training and support:

- Initial project induction and training
- Level 1 Safeguarding training available
- Invite to Nepacs Generic induction
- Volunteer meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year

- NEPACS offer a training day for all volunteers annually
- Volunteers are eligible to attend some prison organised training

Commitment

NEPACS asks volunteers

- To commit to the project and its purpose and give notice of absence as soon as possible
- To undertake an induction programme
- To agree to a DBS check and prison clearance (this will require a form of photo ID)

Volunteers can expect

- Support from members of staff
- Training opportunities
- Invitation to volunteer meetings
- Recognition of their work

To apply:

Please download an application form from our Volunteer Opportunities page of our website or contact: volunteering@nepacs.co.uk , or ring us on 0191 375 7278.