



Want to help young refugees, meet people, learn new skills and be part of a great team?

Pathways to Independence are looking for volunteers to join our new Connect project

The Connect project

This new project has been co-designed with young refugees and aims to increase self-confidence and sense of belonging as part of a community by increasing young refugees social connections

Community connectors

What's the role?

Community connectors meet young people for a few hours a week to do activities that increase social connections and confidence.

Examples may include going for a walk to the local park or café, talking about life in England; visiting a local new group, playing football in the park, going to the shops, practicing conversational English, sharing local knowledge, finding out about new things in the area, helping a young person to meet other people, help with finding a volunteering opportunity, attending an appointment. As well as being out and about 'community connectors' also spend time with young people in their homes for example, cooking together, socialising, gardening.

An important part of the role is being a good listener as our young people may have limited English and are often on a challenging journey of seeking sanctuary and dealing with past trauma as well as being in the asylum system here in the UK.

What skills and knowledge are we looking for?

Knowledge of the local community or confidence and willingness to gain this knowledge

Understanding of the situation of young refugees in the UK

Listening and communication skills

Practical life skills such as preparing a meal

Basic IT skills to write case notes and keep records updated

Ability to adhere to policies and procedures relating to health and safety; safeguarding

We particularly welcome volunteers from asylum seekers, refugees and migrants

Language skills are desirable eg Pashtu; Tigrini

What's the time commitment?

There's some initial induction and training sessions. Ideally you'll be able to offer a few hours each week for a minimum of 6 months, or be available for a more intensive period for a shorter time. We'll aim to fit in with your schedule.

What we can offer you

An amazing opportunity to work with a small dynamic team to make a difference to the life of a young refugee. We give all volunteers a high quality induction, ongoing 121 support and provide learning opportunities to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise. We provide travel and lunch expenses.

Pathways to Independence UK CIC is a community interest company and provides housing and support to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Most of our young people are young men aged between 16-24 years old.

At PTI our vision is of a world in which all young refugees are able to fulfil their potential and make positive, informed decisions about their lives as they make the transition to adult life.

Our outcomes for young people are:

- Young people feel safe
- Young people have increased social connections
- Young people feel valued and have a sense of belonging as part of a community
- Young people have increased self-confidence and agency

These outcomes reflect what young people themselves have told us about matters most to them.

For an application form / further information please contact Mary Jane Burkett at maryjane@ptiuk.org.uk