

Herstory Humberside Project Volunteer Mentor

Throughout Humberside

Lincolnshire Action Trust:

Lincolnshire Action Trust was established in 2000 and works with a variety of agencies within the criminal justice system to reduce re-offending, by working with people with convictions to address some of the issues and challenges which have resulted in their sentence.

The charity offers a range of training opportunities and employment support to prepare people for their release. Additional key services are also offered to their families and dependants, both during their time in prison and following their release.

General overview:

LAT have recently received funding for a new project in collaboration with Humberside police, that supports women in the Humberside area known to police, or who are at risk of being involved in criminal justice. The project aims to match the women with a volunteer mentor who can help by giving advice and guidance with the overall goal of reducing their likelihood of entering the criminal justice system.

The volunteer mentor project matches volunteers with individuals in the criminal justice system or at risk of entering it to provide them with encouragement, support, and confidence to develop themselves and access new opportunities, ultimately aiming to reduce offending and reoffending.

Mentoring matches work together to identify goals and participate in activities that progress the mentee towards achieving them. This could include working towards education, employment, volunteering, gaining new skills, emotional wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem, and much more. Volunteers in this role will therefore act as a mentor to an individual over a period of time, working one-to-one with them in the community. They will provide regular feedback of any activities undertaken, adhering to LAT's safeguarding procedures. Mentoring operates across multiple projects within LAT.

Due to the nature of the project, volunteers must be female and over 18. The above role is exempt under the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, Part 1.

This role would entail;

- Working closely with a woman and their LAT practitioner to achieve desired goals
- Meeting regularly to undertake various activities with the individual
- Providing verbal and written feedback of activities
- Communicating information effectively to aid multi-agency working and reporting
- Respecting confidentiality and acting professionally at all times
- Providing emotional and practical support
- Adhering to professional boundaries

You will need to;

- Agree to an enhanced DBS with Adult barred list check and reference checks
- Undertake an induction and training programme
- Be available for a minimum of 2 sessions per month (ideally weekly if possible).
- Commit to a minimum of 3 to 6 months for a potential match with a client

LAT will give you:

- Provide you with all of the skills and training required for the role
- Support you in assessing and managing risk
- Provide regular supervision and a point of contact for any concerns
- Help you with any issues that you feel may be safeguarding or criminal behaviour related

Skills required;

- Welcoming and friendly attitude
- Ability to work confidently as part of a team and independently
- Well organised and an attention to detail
- Punctual and reliable team member
- Active listening
- Patience and understanding

Examples of mentor activities:

- Provide respite opportunities and leisure activities
- Encourage individuals to create positive coping strategies
- Help with application forms and other written tasks
- Encourage the individual to engage with prosocial activities and groups
- Act as an impartial person to talk to regarding their problems and concerns
- Help engaging with professionals for support