



## **Community Action Project**

Independent visitors for 'looked after children and young people'

## **Community Action Partner**

Community Service Volunteers (Allies Project)

**Aim:** The aim of CSV overall is to involve people in voluntary service in the UK, to enrich the lives of volunteers, those they help and to generate social change. The Allies project works with 'looked-after children' who are currently in the care of the local authority. It aims to build a one-to-one relationship based on trust and mutual respect between a positive adult role-model and the young person.

**Role:** The volunteers will become 'Allies', who are independent visitors for 'looked after children and young people' that are in the care of the local authority. They may be in foster care or a children's home and may have no contact with their family and have no special adult who can spend time with them individually. Allies act as a friend, informal mentor, advisor and general positive role model. The Allies will talk to them, take them out, and introduce them to new activities whilst having fun. They also help the young person to speak up for themselves.

**Training:** A full and thorough training scheme is run on a regular basis for the volunteers. Supervision is by way of group support meetings and one-to-one support through emails, phone or face to face.

**Location:** Based in and around London Borough of Hounslow.

**Times:** Exact days and hours are negotiated between the volunteer and their young person. Usually the hours are at weekends or early weekday evenings. A minimum of two hours per week is required.

**CRB:** A CRB disclosure is required via CSV office.

**Other:** It is essential that volunteers can commit for a minimum of 12 to 18 months. This is because it is important that the young person has a stable relationship with an adult. The project can pay travel expenses, meal allowances and any expenses reasonably spent while out with the young person. They operate a set budget for this per month.

**Application:** All volunteers must be registered as Community Action volunteers. To do so, visit <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/services/volunteering/register.html>

Royal Holloway  
University of London

