



Volunteer Role Description:

Someone Like Me Volunteer

'Great listening skills, enjoy talking to others'

Background to the role:

Kinship carers often just need to 'offload' and talk to someone who knows the issues and difficulties they might be facing.

Someone Like Me is a telephone peer support service for kinship carers who have requested support on a one-to-one basis.

As a current or former kinship carer – you are in the best position to help by offering emotional support to kinship carers who need a listening ear from someone who understands what they are going through and, where appropriate, reflecting back on your own personal experience.

If you have great listening skills, and enjoy talking to others, this is a brilliant way to volunteer with Kinship.

Where and how:



Commitment: Regular commitment of a minimum of 2-3 hours per week, Monday-Friday, at a time that suits you. We might trial weekend calls but only if it's convenient for you. We ask for a minimum commitment of one year whilst recognising that people's circumstances may change.



Location: Home based, anywhere in England and Wales.



Requirements: You will need access to a phone, a computer with internet, an email account, and a confidential space from which to work. All calls are routed through Kinship's telephone system, with coded logins so your number will not be visible and there will be no cost to you.

Minimum age: 18

What you'll be doing

You will be matched with kinship carers who have requested emotional support and:

- calling your assigned kinship carers and providing emotional and moral support through supportive listening and empathy
- reflecting on, and sharing your own experiences where appropriate and if it is helpful to the kinship carer
- signposting kinship carers needing advice to our [Advice Service](#), or other information and support services in their local area
- completing a short online form for each contact to measure impact and help us ensure we're supporting kinship carers
- working within the boundaries of the charity's confidentiality and data protection policies

Is this role right for you?

We need current or former kinship carers who are dedicated and want to proactively make a difference to the lives of other kinship carers. We're looking for people with the following skills and qualities:

- an empathetic and friendly telephone manner
- able to build a rapport with people and put people at ease
- warmth, understanding, sensitivity and a willingness to listen
- supportive and non-judgemental
- able to sensitively reflect on and share your experiences in a way that supports and empowers other kinship carers, without giving advice
- able to communicate clearly over the phone
- understand the need for confidentiality
- understand the importance of completing our contact forms to demonstrate impact and help develop the service

What will you gain from the role?

- induction and training to equip you with the skills and confidence to carry out the role
- ongoing support and supervision from our Digital Volunteering Manager
- options to become part of Volunteer forums, such as WhatsApp and Facebook groups
- reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (where appropriate, on production of a receipt)
- membership to our Kinship Community network with opportunities to attend events and special kinship care events
- a sense that you're able to help someone and make them feel less lonely and isolated

What are the benefits of volunteering with Kinship?

There are lots of reasons to volunteer **if** it's the right time for you. We really appreciate as a kinship carer you have a busy life. As a Kinship volunteer you'll:

- volunteer from home at a time that suits you
- develop new skills and knowledge
- gain satisfaction knowing that you are making a difference to the lives of other kinship carers
- feel connected with other kinship carers working towards a common goal
- have opportunities to become involved in further developing our service

How to apply and what happens next

You'll be able to chat to our Digital Volunteering Manager to make sure this role is right for you at the moment. If it is, we'll ask you to:

- complete an application form and provide the names of two people who have known you for at least two years who can offer a reference for you (this could be a colleague or friend, but not a family member)
- support our 'safer recruitment' - we ask all our peer support volunteers to undertake an Enhanced DBS check
- attend and complete the induction training sessions

You'll have conversations with our Digital Volunteering Manager throughout the process to make sure the volunteer role is a good fit for you and the charity.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the role, please contact the Digital Volunteering Manager by email: volunteer@kinship.org.uk



Please complete our Expression of Interest form - it should only take 5 minutes. [CLICK HERE TO FILL IN FORM.](#)



Safeguarding statement:

Safeguarding is everyone's business – Kinship is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare / wellbeing of the adults, children and families we work with. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Connect with us - join our friendly community:



<https://compass.kinship.org.uk>



facebook.com/Kinshipcarecharity



twitter.com/kinshipcharity



instagram.com/kinship_charity

In some small way I may be able to fill a gap or make an impact on the everyday wellbeing of a carer reaching out for help. I don't know all the answers and can't hope to resolve the daily challenges that arise in kinship life, but I hope that by being available to listen I may help someone feel less alone, gain strength and take a step closer to feeling in control of their lives

Someone Like Me volunteer and kinship carer

