

Independent visitors service providing volunteer befrienders to children and young people in care require a

## Independent Visitor Volunteer

---

Coram Voice is a national independent children's charity which was established in 1975 and has grown to become one of the leading agencies for children and young people in the UK. Around 60 employed staff, 100 freelance workers and 200 volunteers deliver services to children and agencies through our London headquarters and regional offices. Together they provide Coram Voice with a high degree of specialist expertise in the fields of advocacy, children's rights, mental health, complaints, secure accommodation and experience of working with children in care, in custody, in need and those who have recently left care.

Coram Voice exists to enable and equip children and young people to hold the system to account, to challenge and support it to do its job properly and to uphold the rights of children and young people to actively participate in shaping their own lives.

Coram Voice strives for a society which recognises and willingly accepts its responsibilities to children and young people, where the inequalities and discrimination they currently face have been eradicated. Where those children and young people are fully engaged in all decisions that are made about their lives. Where the views, needs and feelings that they express are at the core of those decisions.

We are seeking candidates who are committed to our objectives for children and young people and equally committed to the organisation and the development of our services. You will provide encouragement, kindness and friendship, accommodating fun and enjoyable monthly outings. We recognise we are a predominantly white workforce and are genuinely committed to encouraging candidates from diverse communities in order to improve the services to the children and young people we help.

We are currently experiencing a lack of male volunteers to be matched with boys on the waiting list who have specifically requested a male role model figure. However, we welcome applications from anyone interested in the role.

**Main purpose of the role:**

An independent Visitor (also known as an IV) is a responsible adult volunteer who befriends and supports a child or young person who is looked after by a local authority and has little or no contact with his/her parents. The children or young people may need additional support particularly as they are likely to be living in children's homes, foster homes or independently.

**Commitment required:**

Due to the nature of the role the minimum commitment time is two years.

You will meet on a monthly basis where you will then take the young person out for a few hours.

The date that you meet each month is to be planned by yourself and the young person.  
Visits do not take place in the young person's home or the volunteer's home  
During term time most visits will be in the evening or at weekends.

**Role responsibilities:**

To visit the child/young person they are matched with monthly to demonstrate commitment to them.

Volunteers are expected to take young people out on visits, e.g. playing in the local park, trips to cinemas/museums, football etc.

NOTE: IV's collect children from their homes but don't do visits within the home without exceptional circumstances.

To share the young person's interests or hobbies or specific activity.

**Attributes required:**

To be open, warm and approachable.

Given the nature of the role we require you to be committed, reliable and maintain regular communications.

**Training and support given:**

You will receive ongoing support, training and supervision from the service. This will include telephone contact, individual support and group support meetings with other IVs for informal discussions and training on relevant subjects. You will be able to claim reasonable expenses to cover the costs involved in visiting a young person.

**General considerations:**

**DBS checks** All volunteers are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.

**Training** All successful candidates are required to complete our compulsory training programme which includes induction training and E learning courses on Safeguarding and Diversity, GDPR etc.

**Conflict of interest** The independence of the service is important to Coram Voice. Prospective applicants need to raise any other potential conflicts of interest when initially contacting Coram Voice about this post.

**To apply for this role:**

An H4ALL application form MUST be completed. We require two references.



To obtain an application form:

Visit [www.h4all.org.uk](http://www.h4all.org.uk) and download or print an application form

Or

Email [volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk](mailto:volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk) to request an application form to be sent to you by email or post

Send your fully completed application form by:

Email to [volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk](mailto:volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk)

Or

Post to H4ALL, Volunteer Development Team, Key House, Yiewsley, UB7 9BQ

The poster features a young boy in a blue shirt and tie, smiling broadly with his tongue sticking out, being kissed on the cheek by an adult. To the left, a young girl is shown in a circular inset, smiling. The background is a collage of colorful handprints. The text is as follows:

**coramVoice** )))  
getting young voices heard

**Could you be a friend to a child in care who needs one?**

**Sophie, 23 and an Independent Visitor, said:**  
"I wanted to become an IV because it was a unique and fun way to make a meaningful and positive contribution to a child's life. It's incredibly rewarding for both parties!"

**Can you spare a few hours a month?**

A QR code is located at the bottom left of the poster.