



COMMUNITY WELCOME VOLUNTEER FOR REFUGEES

Connection Support provides a range of emotional and practical support to help refugees resettling in the UK as part of the government's UKRS (UK Resettlement Scheme) and ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy).

This includes supporting families from Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, and the Republic of Congo to manage the massive transition from camps and unsettled accommodation.

The families will be new to the country and are unlikely to know where to go for everyday activities.

We are looking for English speaking volunteers in Oxfordshire (primarily South and Vale) to spare an hour or so per week to help families settle into everyday life.

How you'll help:

- Visit the family in their new home, helping them with conversational English, reinforcing the English terms for everyday items, greetings, requests etc.
- Assist with localisation and understanding where to access local amenities such as shops, pharmacies, hairdressers, dentists, council Offices, places of Worship, police, advice centres, schools, bus stops, train stations, parks, and recreation areas
- Guidance with how to achieve everyday things that we take for granted such as public transport, attending medical appointments and contacting emergency services
- Help with understanding written communications such as bills and appointments

Volunteer profile:

Experience of working in this area is not essential, however if you are a good listener and willing to help people in difficult circumstances, this could be the role for you!

We ask that you demonstrate:

- Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness
- Excellent Communication skills including the ability to interact with those whose first language is not English
- Ability to respect confidentiality
- Access to own transport helpful but not essential
- Ability to commit to 1-2 hours volunteering on a weekly basis

Hours are flexible, usually within 9-5 office hours. Volunteers are required to complete a DBS check and to provide names of 2 referees. Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Training offered:

Online safeguarding vulnerable adults and children training will be offered as well as relevant in-house training opportunities throughout the year. Volunteers will receive ongoing support from a Volunteer Supervisor.

How to apply:

Please show your initial interest by completing our [volunteer contact form](#). Our Volunteer Co-ordinator will then call you to discuss the role so please be sure to include a mobile number. At this point there is no commitment, you are just expressing interest to find out more about the role.

What is the Process?

You will have access to our Volunteer Manual with key policies and other detailed policies as relevant. Each volunteer will have access to our “Hive” intranet, which is used to communicate with you, and so you can receive organisation-wide news. You are an important part of our team.

FAQs

We've compiled the following answers to what we think will be questions that may pop into your head. Please do ask your Volunteer Co-ordinator anything that you'd like to know before progressing with your application to volunteer.

“Will I meet other volunteers?”

Yes. We have regular social and training events throughout the year, although these are currently being delivered virtually.

“What sort of further training can I access?”

There will be opportunities throughout the year to attend various workshops and training sessions.

“Will this volunteer role help me to access work?”

Hands on experience is always valuable when applying for a new role. We are always happy to give our volunteers a reference if they are applying for a new job. The skills and experience you gain with us can be useful in a variety of careers. If there is a specific job role or career you are working towards it is best to discuss this when you speak to our volunteer co-ordinator/supervisors, to enable you to get everything you hope to from volunteering with us.