**About Via Young People’s service in Barking and Dagenham**

Via Subwize is primarily a support service for young people under the age of 25 in LBBD who are affected by drug and alcohol problems and or parental substance misuse. Additionally, Subwize offers support to young people in the Borough who are struggling with their basic literacy and numeracy, or requiring support to get into education, employment or training. We have a dedicated team of substance misuse practitioners who work alongside other professionals including nurses, independent prescriber, therapists, and Clinical leads within our organisation. We also work with a varied range of partnership agencies.

**We support young people with:**

* Advice and information around health and wellbeing.
* Private and confidential sessions with own keyworker.
* Information and advice about the different types of drugs and alcohol.
* Support and information for families and carers.

We meet young people at locations that suits them, such as schools, colleges, children’s centres, or in any other safe place in the community.

**About the Education support side of the service**

Our volunteer education service pilot provides students with the opportunity to meet in schools with a volunteer education practitioner for weekly, 60 - minute sessions. In these sessions they will discuss what area of education they are struggling with, and be guided / supported to make the most out of their school experience. Areas of need could include any of the following and more: low reading age causing them to fall behind in lessons, insufficient support or motivation to complete independent learning, not understanding certain lessons and not having the courage to speak out in class to ask for extra support.

For young people not in employment, education or training, our volunteer education practitioners will meet with them in the community to offer support in the form of signposting, or to deliver the Shannon Trust ‘Turning Pages’ / ‘Count me in’ Programme(s).

**About the role**

As a Volunteer Education practitioner, you will champion our partnership with literacy charity Shannon Trust and support the delivery of a wide range of interventions for service users. Seeing a minimum of 3 students one day per week in school, in the community or the Vibe your role will include:

* Delivering interventions using ‘Turning Pages’ (literacy) and or ‘Count Me In’ (numeracy) Shannon Trust recourses.
* Signposting to relevant services where Shannon Trust resources are not applicable / additional support is required.
* Keeping accurate records of work in line with Via expectations and feedback any issues to the line manager/supervisor. Attend ongoing training in discussion with your line manager.
* Adhering to all Via policies and procedures.

In addition to the above you will be invited to participate in meetings where relevant and to carry out other tasks as deemed necessary to support the needs of the Education service.

**What skills to I need:**

We are seeking Volunteer education practitioner to work with young people aged under 25. We are specifically looking for people who have a passion for working with young people, have experience of working with young people, and who have an understanding of the characteristics and varying educational needs of Young People. An aptitude for key stage maths / English and or knowledge of the phonic method (basis of the ‘Turning Pages’ programme) would be advantageous but the most important thing is to have the passion and ability to support young people in these areas.

A positive attitude and the desire to learn are essential, as is a non-judgemental and supportive approach to people who are facing problems in the areas of basic literacy, numeracy, and or engagement.

To ensure good practice standards and to maximise the safety of both the volunteer and the young people at Via we require all volunteers to confirm and adhere to the following:

* Always adhere to professional boundaries.
* Consent to a full DBS check (funded and carried out by Via).
* No receiving personal gifts from the young person to volunteer, unless its not a personal gift and small gift can be shared among the team.
* No giving gifts from volunteer to the young person.
* The volunteer must always inform their line manager if a gift has been offered.
* No sharing of volunteer personal phone numbers, email or socials to the young person.
* Contact must always be made through school link / safe-guarding lead or lead Education Practitioner, using VIA volunteer email address.

**What Via can offer you:**

When you begin volunteering you will be allocated a supervisor who will act as your main point of contact in your Via service. He/she will provide you with ongoing support and supervision and will work closely with you throughout your time at Via. There is also a central volunteer services team that will support you while you are on placement. In addition, you can expect:

* A full induction to your role and continuous local training (including intro to Shannon Trust resources and safe guarding / professional boundaries)
* Access to central staff training opportunities
* Regular Monthly individual supervision
* Reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses and lunch expenses

**When:**

We are looking for someone to support the team for 1 day per week for a few hours – depending on the Via project and number of education sessions. We ask that volunteer education practitioners try to commit for at least one year where possible.

**How to apply**

If you would like to apply for this role, please read the guidance notes on applying for volunteer roles and complete and return an application form with your CV.

Email: volunteers@viaorg.uk Post: Volunteer Services