

# Deaf Role Model Volunteer

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Deaf Role Models share their **lived experience of deafness** with **deaf children and their families**, showing what is possible. This volunteering will take place at different types of events and activities, either in-person or online. More than 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents who might know very little about deafness. Being able to meet deaf adults can give them a **deeper understanding** of the **different choices and possibilities** for their child.

## About you

- Aged 18 years and over
- Lived experience of deafness – it doesn't matter what level of deafness you have, or how you communicate
- Willing to share your personal experiences of deafness with a range of audiences including families of deaf children and young people in different community venues
- Prepared to answer questions that families and/or children may have about your experiences

## When and where

- Event locations and times will vary. You can choose events that suit your availability.

## What you will do

- You may talk about topics such as your family life, initial diagnosis, communication, education, interests and hobbies, career and challenges
- Some assignments may include additional tasks; for example, leading an ice breaker
- Create and adapt your talk to meet the needs of the audience or family
- Be a positive role model and present us in a positive way
- Be responsible for the quality of your volunteering and for yourself as part of a team
- Help families to think about the different choices and possibilities for their child, recognising that there isn't going to be one 'right' or 'wrong' approach for all deaf children

## What will you gain from the role?

Other volunteers have told us that training and volunteering has given them:

- Increased confidence and new skills
- A broader understanding of childhood deafness and the issues faced by families
- A sense of achievement by making a positive difference

## Support and training

You will be provided with:

- Training to support you in your role, including Equality Diversity and Inclusion, safeguarding, informed choice, presentation skills and deaf awareness
- Feedback on your contribution and the resulting outcomes
- A named point of contact
- Reimbursement of agreed expenses such as travel costs
- Clear information about what to do and who to contact if you're worried about something



We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of families, children and young people. You will be asked to complete a self-disclosure form, complete a Basic disclosure check, provide references and complete our essential training.