

# Children and young people's support volunteer



Location:	Across our nursing area in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire
Time commitment:	About 16 hours per month, working with two or more clients at one time. Each client will have between 6 and 12 sessions that are block booked in advance for continuity, although there is of course some flexibility around illness/appointments/holiday. We hope that you will be able to commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering

## Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care (RGP) vision

We will support people of all ages who are affected by a progressive life-limiting illness, and those who care for them, to live as well as possible by providing choice and ease of access to a wide range of palliative care and bereavement services across west Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

## Purpose of this role

Children and young people's support volunteers provide support for children and young people under the age of 18 either in their homes, at one of our hospice buildings in Watford or St Albans, at external venues, including schools, or by participating in events organised by the team. These young clients will either have a parent, sibling or close relative who is seriously ill or who has died.

The role involves empowering the parents or main carer to support children, and to provide one to one support for the child or young person at home, school or one of our patient buildings in Watford or St Albans. Our volunteers allow us to offer this service to more families who need it.

## **Main tasks**

- building trusting relationships with children and young people
- working one to one with children and young people to provide child centred support
- using a variety of creative activities and play where appropriate, such as making memory boxes and using puppets or art and craft materials as an alternative way to express and share thoughts and feelings
- adapting the support you give to be relevant to the age of the child or young person
- potentially offering education about loss and grief and how to support children and young people to school and staff
- attending mandatory supervision every month for an hour and a half
- following all Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care policies and procedures at all time
- supporting either virtually and/or face to face

## **What are we looking for?**

- experience of working with and supporting children and young people either one to one or in a group
- excellent listening and communication skills
- an understanding that all our work is around death, dying, grief and loss, and you need to feel comfortable to discuss these topics in a sensitive and age appropriate way
- the ability to empathise with others
- someone who is flexible and reliable
- someone who is able to work independently and as part of a team to deliver our service
- someone with basic IT skills who is able to keep concise, accurate records and stick to reporting deadlines
- Age 18+

## **Training and support**

- there will be a named line manager who will provide ongoing support
- there will be some mandatory training that you will need to complete at the start of your volunteering with us and then periodically afterwards as refresher training which will include data security and confidentiality
- your line manager will organise training specific to your role

## What you need to know

- you will complete a volunteer application form and we will ask for one reference from someone who knows you well.
- you will need to complete an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for the adult and child workforce for this role, with child barring.
- as a charity supporting people who are vulnerable, we encourage all volunteers with patient and client contact to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19
- you must have your own personal email address for secure communication about clients
- each young person will have between 6 to 12 sessions depending on their situation
- patient facing volunteers will have access to supervision support
- client support and your own supervision may be given virtually. You will be expected to follow our Virtual Visit and Virtual Groups policy and your line manager will go through this with you
- we welcome everyone and will make reasonable adjustments should they be needed
- we will pay reasonable expenses incurred, should you wish to claim them
- we rely on the commitment of our volunteers to support our services, however we understand that you may need to take a break from your volunteering. If you are not able to volunteer for a period of time, you will not attend supervision, and we will check in with you after 3 months. Depending on your circumstances, we would then check in with you again after 6 months. At that point, if you are still not ready to return, we will make you inactive as a volunteer, so that we are not keeping data unnecessarily and we know where we are in terms of resourcing the service. Of course, we'd be very happy to discuss returning to the role at any time – your line manager will meet with you to discuss it, and if you do return, we will ask you to attend some refresher training.

To protect both patients and volunteers, you MUST NOT:

- give clinical advice or medication
- counsel clients
- give out personal contact details
- witness any legal documentation for the client or their family

For more information please contact the volunteering team on 01727 731020 (Grove House, St Albans), or 01923 330330 (Peace Hospice, Watford),

[volunteers@renniegrovepeace.org](mailto:volunteers@renniegrovepeace.org)