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**Volunteering at The Hamlet FAQs**

**Why should I volunteer at The Hamlet?**

Volunteering with us is an experience that is rewarding in many ways. It is a fantastic opportunity to support children, young people and adults with disabilities making a difference to their lives. You will learn new skills, gain experience and make new friends.

**Do I need specific skills to volunteer with The Hamlet?**

Most of our volunteering opportunities do not require any specific skills. The main thing we look for in our volunteers is a positive attitude and a willingness to help people with disabilities to build confidence, explore opportunities and be a part of a community. You may be asked to support a child in play or accompany an adult to the cinema or bowling with the Out of Hours Club!

However, if you have any specific skills, from yoga or football to arts and crafts or baking, they’d be most welcome. Make sure you mention them when completing your application form.

**How do I get involved with The Hamlet?**

Check out our volunteering opportunities. We have a variety of activities to get involved with – if something appeals, complete our expression of interest form and we’ll be in touch.

**How old do I need to be to volunteer with The Hamlet?**

We have volunteering opportunities for people age 17 or over. We have volunteers from all walks of life who each bring something different to our activities. The amount of responsibility that you will have will depend on experience.

**How much time will I have to give?**

We can be flexible. You will need to tell us what time you can give, and we will see if that fits with the needs of the organisation. It could be as little as two hours or as long as a day.

**I am still at school. Can I volunteer at The Hamlet?**

Yes! As long as you are 17 or over, we would be very happy for you to volunteer with us. If you feel like you are too busy to volunteer during term time, you can always sign up to volunteer at our holiday playschemes.

**I have a part-time or full-time job; do you have opportunities that I could get involved with?**

Absolutely! If you are too busy during the day to volunteer but are free in the evenings, you would be most welcome to attend help at one of our weekend or weeknight activities. If you happen to be free during the school holidays, we also run playschemes for children and need lots of help!

**Do I need a DBS check?**

You may need to complete a DBS check, but this will depend on what activities you get involved with and how often you volunteer. Anyone volunteering with us on a regular basis (once a week or more) will need a DBS check.

If you are part of the Update Service, please do let us know on your application form along with the date it was issued. We will need to see your original paper copy.

**Do I have to pay for the DBS check?**

DBS checks are free to volunteers, but there is an admin fee (£11.60) that you will be asked to pay as the company that does the check requires this. It is your check and you will be able to take it with you, so we do not pay for this.

Please let us know if this is going to prevent you from being able to volunteer.