

Blind and Visually Impaired Young Adults Events

Volunteer

Flexible commitment – mostly evenings and weekends, approximately one event per month

Would you like to make a difference, supporting young people to get out into the community and have fun? Blatchington Court Trust is recruiting volunteers to support our social events for blind and vision impaired young adults across Sussex. These events create opportunities for young people to meet others, try new activities and take part in things they might otherwise find difficult to access independently.

About Blatchington Court Trust

Blatchington Court Trust supports blind and vision impaired children and young people aged 0-29, as well as their families. We provide practical support, guidance and opportunities that help young people build confidence and increase their independence.

About the Role

We run regular social events for children, young adults, and their families. All participants are blind or vision impaired, and some may also have additional disabilities. We are particularly seeking volunteers to assist with our events for young adults aged 16 to 29, however some of our events are open to younger clients.

Events take place at venues across Sussex and are usually held in the evenings or at weekends. Most events last around 3–4 hours. We ask volunteers to attend on a reasonably regular basis where possible, with approximately one event per month.

Volunteers work alongside staff and are expected to follow safeguarding, professional boundaries and health and safety procedures at all times.

The role involves practical support to ensure everyone can participate fully. This may include:

- Acting as a sighted guide to support safe and confident participation
- Providing clear verbal descriptions of visual information when requested
- Reading menus, signage or written information
- Supporting staff with practical tasks such as checking in attendees, and setting up for events

Our events include meals out, creative workshops, sport and leisure activities, theatre trips and other activities shaped by the interests of the group.

No previous experience of blindness or visual impairment is required. A full induction, including safeguarding training and sighted guide training will be provided before you commence the role.

Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for volunteers who are:

- Able to build respectful, age-appropriate rapport with young adults
- Clear and respectful communicators
- Reliable and able to work as part of a team
- Able to maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- Calm and confident in group settings
- Patient and able to adapt if plans change
- Respectful of confidentiality and privacy
- Open to learning

If you have a particular skill or interest you would like to share at an event, we would be glad to hear about it, but this is not required.

Blatchington Court Trust is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and communities and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure volunteering is accessible. We value the lived experience and perspectives that different volunteers bring.

What You Can Expect From Us

- A full induction and ongoing support
- The opportunity to support young people to make friends, have fun, build their skills, and access a range of activities they may not be able to do otherwise
- The chance to get to know a community of people you might otherwise be unfamiliar with, and to learn about experiences that differ from your own
- Sighted guide, visual impairment awareness, safeguarding, and health and safety training
- A named member of staff for supervision and guidance
- Clear information prior to each event

- Reimbursement of agreed reasonable out-of-pocket expenses
- A welcoming and supportive community
- A commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing for clients, staff and volunteers

Blatchington Court Trust is committed to safeguarding blind and vision impaired children and young people. All volunteers must follow safeguarding procedures.

DBS Requirement

An enhanced DBS check will be required for all successful applicants.

How to Apply

To express interest or request further information, please email connor@blatchingtoncourt.org.uk and include a brief statement outlining your interest and any relevant experience (formal or informal).

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We aim to begin recruitment and inductions in early June.