

Peer Mentor Job Description

FOR JIMMY

Following the murder of 16-year-old Jimmy Mizen in May 2008, the Mizen family has been determined to focus on two outcomes; they will not be beaten by his death, and something good will come from it. Since the charity was founded, For Jimmy has worked tirelessly to create a legacy of peace in Jimmy's name; helping young people to fulfil their potential creating safer and peaceful communities.

We believe that the issues of anger, confrontation and violence in our communities will not be altered by ever harsher punishment and retributive action. We cannot expect the government or the police service to bring change by itself. We will only achieve safer and more cohesive communities by working together and understanding the root causes of the issues we are seeking to rectify. This involves early intervention, education and engagement with young people and their communities.

WHAT WE DO

For Jimmy's vision over the next three years is to make Lewisham a place of peace and safety. Through our work creating Safe Havens with socially and academically at risk pupils in schools, we teach young people about community safety, boost their skills and confidence, and get them involved in their local community; where they forge relationships and build a stronger sense of safety and belonging. In turn, the Safe Haven project raises awareness locally about the responsibility of community members to help protect young people from crime.

“For Jimmy gave me the confidence to act as a leader in groups; both in and out of school. They taught our group a lot about Jimmy Mizen's life and that encouraged us to help set up Safe Havens in our local community. The push For Jimmy gave me has now helped me to get involved in student leadership at my school.”

Faith Peprah is a Year 9 pupil at Deptford Green School

The Safe Haven programme is a key part of For Jimmy's work in schools. Safe Havens are shops and local businesses that children can turn to in times of need and are identifiable by a sticker on the window. If a child feels threatened or in danger, they can enter a Safe Haven and the shopkeeper will agree to lock the door and call a parent, guardian or the police. This fosters a sense of mutual care and responsibility between children and adults in the community. A shop or business agrees to become a Safe Haven after being asked by the children we work with if they would like to be involved. As well as helping to keep young people safe, the scheme is vital in building positive relationships between schools, communities and local authorities.

THE ROLE

We are looking for exceptional individuals who can support our work by acting as peer mentors for the pupils on our programme. This involves supporting children across as we take them on a journey of self-development.

PEER MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about working with young people, and who care about making communities safer in Lewisham and Deptford. You must show a willingness to learn how to:

- Act as a positive role model for young people.
- Be aware of health and safety hazards when taking young people outside of their school.
- Manage a group of 5 young people between the ages of 9 – 13 (Year 5 and/ or Year 8).

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Fixed term agreement as follows: 35 hours' total commitment:

- A single 5 hour training session.
- 1 session a week, 6 sessions in total.
- Each session runs for 5 hours from 8am – 1pm or 9am – 2pm, however, due to the nature of our work these hours may vary.
- Occasionally programmes of a shorter length (varying from 1 to 4 days) will be available.
- Individuals must commit to completing a full programme.
- Individuals are free to participate in as many programmes as they like, providing they can commit to all sessions.
- Programmes are currently scheduled from March to July during school hours (8am – 3:30pm).
- Individuals will need the flexibility to work in schools across Lewisham and Deptford. Occasionally our work extends beyond Lewisham borough, in these instances travel assistance will be provided.
- Applicants will need to possess or be willing to apply for an Enhanced DBS certificate.
- Applicants will be required to read and adhere to our Safeguarding policy.
- Remuneration: minimum wage plus 10%.

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

- The ability to quickly build rapport with young people and colleagues.
- Good communication skills and the ability to respond well to feedback.
- Enthusiasm, patience and resilience when working with, at times, challenging young people.
- The ability to use an appropriate tone when speaking to young people, teachers, parents, members of the public and colleagues.
- A willingness to commit to the message of peace and hope that inspires For Jimmy's work.