

Parent2Parent Project – Volunteer Role Description

Purpose of the role:

To share impartial advice and information with other parents and carers about supporting children who are:

- sitting GCSE exams and/or assessments
- moving to college and/or choosing A Levels, BTECS, T Levels etc
- applying to higher education courses after college
- studying at university level or doing a higher-level apprenticeship

Main areas of responsibility:

- To champion and promote further and higher education to other parents and carers and their children and to ensure they have all the information they need to make informed choices and address any concerns they may have.
- To signpost parents and carers towards sources of support and information.
- To contribute to the development of parent and carer focused resources and materials for SLN:Uni Connect as well as participating schools and colleges.

Specific duties:

1. To attend events (both virtual and physical) organised by SLN:Uni Connect and its partner schools and colleges, as well as community events where parents and carers are in attendance to give information and advice on applying to university, student funding and student life to address any possible barriers that parents and carers might face.
2. To promote relevant websites and resources related to higher education to parents and their students, for example, UCAS, Student Finance England, Money Matters, Discover Uni, Get Career Confident etc.
3. To give impartial information and advice to other parents and carers about supporting children at university and college and how to access sources of help.
4. To attend parent forums at schools, colleges and universities depending on which area is relevant/of interest to the volunteer.
5. To keep a record of 'frequently asked questions' to be able to feed these back to the evaluation and research programme managers and school staff where necessary.
6. To assist parents and carers who might be having difficulties navigating Student Finance England or other university related application systems.
7. To help parents and carers address any concerns they may have about their child applying to or attending university.

Person specification:

- Approachable
- Friendly
- Supported children in post-16 stages of education
- Experience of supporting children to apply to college, university, apprenticeships
- Clear communicator

Support for Parent2Parent volunteers

- SLN:Uni Connect staff will provide all training and support. You will be provided with:
- regular updates from Uni Connect and Student Finance England.
- a volunteer handbook.
- materials and resources to share with other parents and carers.
- invitations to SLN:Uni Connect events and activities.

Training for Parent2Parent volunteers

- All volunteers will be given training by SLN:Uni Connect staff who are experts in parent and carer and community engagement.
- All volunteers will be offered supervision and regular refresher training.
- All volunteers will be given the opportunity to shadow other volunteers or members of SLN:Uni Connect staff.

Recognition and reward

- Volunteers will be provided with certificates of participation.
- Volunteers may be provided with references on request and where appropriate.