



What training or support will I receive?

Training

A two day training course covering your role, responsibilities, maintaining boundaries, safeguarding and child protection. Access to additional training through Leeds City Council is available as required.

Support

Ongoing support from the scheme's co-ordinators.

Expenses

Out of pocket expenses. This includes for any activities done with your young person and to cover your travel costs or mileage.

Social gatherings

Optional social gatherings along with other independent visitors.



How do I register my interest?

To register your interest contact us with your details (including a phone number) by:

Email: Independent.visitor1@leeds.gov.uk
or Telephone: **0113 378 0016**

Website:
www.leeds.gov.uk/independentvisitors

Twitter:
[@leedsIVscheme](https://twitter.com/leedsIVscheme)

All photos are posed by models.



- Have you ever thought of volunteering? ✓
- Do you like to have fun? ✓
- Do you want to make a difference to a young person's life? ✓

Find out more about being an independent visitor inside >



About the scheme

In this leaflet you can find all the information you need about becoming an independent visitor for a young person who is living in care of the local authority such as in a children's home or foster care.

Leeds is the largest independent visitor's scheme running in the country.

We want to increase the number of volunteers available to our young people in Leeds and would especially welcome applications from males due to a high demand from our young people.

This is where we require your help... Please register your interest and send us your details using the contact us details on the back page.



Do I need any special qualifications?

No you don't, however you do need to relate well to young people and have a genuine interest in their wellbeing.

We will talk to you at the start of the recruitment process about the skills and experience you have to offer and what you will need to provide.

What is an independent visitor?

An independent visitor is a volunteer who befriends and visits a young person living in the care of the local authority such as in a residential unit or foster care. Young people are aged between 5 and 21 years.

Who can be an independent visitor?

Anyone over 18 who can relate well to young people and have a genuine interest in their well-being.

As part of the application process we will ask for your consent to take up background checks.

What time and commitment do I need to give?

We ask that you can give a young person a few hours once a month for a minimum of two years and be their friend, provide consistency and create a positive friendship between you and the young person. This can involve anything fun from football in the park, seeing the latest film, ice skating or new things that the young person wants to try.

You would also play an important part in the young person's social, emotional and educational development, offering support and advice.

