

Volunteer Befriender

"I have really enjoyed my befriending match. I learnt about the importance of cultural exchange in helping people feel welcome in a new place. I also feel like I have become more confident in making conversation with people from different backgrounds."

It's a great opportunity to do good in the city of Edinburgh!"

Volunteer Befriender 2025

Volunteer Role Description

Role	Volunteer Befriender
Purpose	The role of a Befriender is to share social and cultural activities with New Scots (refugees, asylum seekers and migrant), help them feel more comfortable in their new community and offer informal support with English language learning, on a 1:1 basis.
Specific Tasks	• Arrange weekly meetings • Offer informal English language learning • Support New Scots in getting to know their local area • Provide information about the local area/community • Encourage New Scots to join group activities at the Welcoming or elsewhere • Offer a supportive point of contact • Attend induction, ongoing training and peer support sessions with fellow volunteer befrienders
Skills and Qualities	Interest in supporting others, good listening and interpersonal skills, patience, reliability and flexibility, respect for other cultures, social and cultural interests that you can share with others, interest in developing your skills and reflecting on experiences.
Support and Training offered	• Induction and initial training • Regular supervision • Regular peer support meetings • Ad hoc training and personal development opportunities
Expectations	• Attend volunteer induction • Report any issues in a timely and appropriate manner to the Welcoming Befriending Coordinator • Complete monthly monitoring forms • Attend training and quarterly peer support sessions
Commitment	The befriending programme last for 9 months from the moment you are matched with a service user. The Befriender time commitment is an average of 1-3 hours per week.

Location	Meetings usually take place within the local community or New Scots' home.
Disclosure / PVG requirements	All volunteer befrienders are required to have a PVG check carried out for work with children and vulnerable adults (costs covered by Volunteer Scotland)
Support person and contact details	Chiara Puppi, Befriending Programme Manage chiara@thewelcoming.org