

Press release

Date: 23rd February 2017

Could you change a child's life? Volunteer mentors needed for new service supporting children and young people in the Lambeth area

Friendship Works, which is run by the charity Family Action, is delighted to announce they are launching their mentoring service in Lambeth thanks to a grant from Walcot Foundation.

The charity is now recruiting volunteers to mentor children and young people in the Lambeth area. The children and young people supported are all different, but all have one thing in common: they are facing multiple disadvantages and their circumstances often mean they have limited social interaction outside the family home. This means it is difficult for them to access the types of extracurricular activities most children enjoy, which help build self-esteem and develop life-skills.

Being a mentor helps make a direct difference to a young life and we are looking for dedicated people who are able to give long term support to a young person through taking them on regular outings. Mentees and their mentors get a chance to explore mutual interests, take part in new activities, and explore London together. As they get to know each other through these regular outings, they build a safe, stable friendship. Having a mentor gives the young person a trusted adult to talk to about their lives, supports their emotional well-being and helps them build resilience against adversity now and in the future.

Head of Friendship Works, Kate Gledhill says

"Friendship with a volunteer mentor can help a socially isolated child access new opportunities, build self esteem and develop hopes and aspirations for the future. We would love to hear from people, over the age of 21, who are friendly, empathetic and resilient and have the capacity to make a long-term commitment to spending time with a child or young person living in London for a few hours three weekends a month. We are very grateful to Walcot Foundation for their support which is enabling us to extend our service into Lambeth"

Volunteer Paul explains how rewarding being a mentor can be

"Becoming a mentor with Friendship Works is without doubt the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Spending time with my match is always fun and watching him develop as a person is a real joy. It has also helped develop me as a person and communicator. Becoming a mentor with Friendship Works is one of the best investments with your spare time you could make and I would recommend it to absolutely anybody who asked."



Daniel Chapman, Grants Manager, Walcot Foundation says

“We are very pleased to help bring the Friendship Works project to Lambeth. It will provide much needed emotional support, encouragement and social connections to young people facing very challenging circumstances in the Borough.”

To find out more about becoming a mentor with Friendship Works, please visit www.friendshipworks.org.uk/volunteer/

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For further information and interviews please contact:

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About Family Action

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK’s most vulnerable people.

We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children’s Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training.

Registered Charity Number: 264 713

Website: www.family-action.org.uk Twitter: @family_action Facebook: Family Action

About Friendship Works

Friendship Works is the only youth mentoring service in London that offers long-term, frequent and regular contact between a child or young person and their mentor. Our unique model of mentoring is based on research on childhood attachment, and aims to provide many of the protective factors known to build resilience in children and young people.

With 40 years’ experience of matching children in need of support with safe, reliable adult mentors, we have the skills and knowledge to recruit, train and support dedicated, high quality volunteers, with all the attributes needed to bring positive change to children’s lives.

Our children and young people meet with their volunteer regularly for at least two years to help them explore their potential, get more out of their childhood, and develop valuable life skills.

About Walcot Foundation



Walcot Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation and charity with roots from the early 17th century. Its work is to break cycles of financial deprivation for people living in Lambeth. The Foundation offers a hand up, not a hand out, and seek to tackle poverty by creating opportunity. Over the last ten years the Foundation has made grants amounting to more than £18.4 million.