**SENDIAS Volunteering Opportunities:**

Do you have some time to spare during the day?

Would you like to support Solihull families who have children with special educational needs or disabilities?

We are continually recruiting and training volunteers to help provide information, advice and support (IAS) to children & young people (aged 0 - 25 years) who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) & their parents & carers. If you have some time to spare, want to meet new people and be part of a highly motivated team, assisting us with your skills and knowledge, then this could be the perfect opportunity for you! Alternatively, if you simply wish to gain skills and experience for a change in career, then this volunteer role will also be ideal.

We are looking for dedicated volunteers who use their skills and experience to give support in different ways. This may include directly supporting parents, attending meetings or representing us at events. Volunteers can also support us in areas such as administration, IT, presentations & advertising.

We are seeking people who can offer support to families in a confident, reassuring & non-judgemental manner. In return, we will provide full & ongoing training on matters relating to SEND. Volunteers will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during visits or other work undertaken for the service (mileage, parking, etc.).

Interested? Click here for more info:

**Volunteering with Solihull SENDIAS**

Our volunteers are often (but not always) parents of a child with SEND, though they can come from a broad range of backgrounds such as education, social care & health or other fields as each one brings their own knowledge, skills and experiences to the role. No-one needs to be an expert, just have an interest in SEND & be willing to learn; we offer full training to carry out the role, including SEND law, confidentiality, safeguarding awareness and a DBS check.

As a valued member of the SENDIAS team, your main role will be to support parents, carers, & young people with special educational needs&/or disabilities (SEND). As a volunteer you will provide varied support through providing them with information, assisting them with completing their paperwork, ensuring they have the support they need to ensure their voices are heard at multiagency meetings as well as giving them the relevant information they need on other services that can also be a support to them.

To be an IAS Volunteer you need to be someone who:

* is a good listener
* will respect confidentiality
* is good at explaining things
* is supportive
* can be trusted
* is impartial and does not take sides
* does not bring their own agenda to the role
* will be around for some time
* is good at seeing things through
* has no potential conflict of interest
* can be easily contacted
* can respect a parent’s decision (even if your advice isn’t followed)

Duties involve:

* Listening to parents/carers, children & young people, and supporting them to express their views and concerns.
* Providing information on education, health and social care.
* Assisting with completing SEND paperwork.
* Providing support to help families to understand complex SEND documents & reports.
* Being a valuable support to families at SEND meetings.
* Providing relevant information on other services.
* Working in partnership with the local authority, schools & other agencies.
* Representing the service at outreach events.

Training:
You will receive excellent training to support and assist you in your role and to provide you with valuable skills for this type of voluntary work. You will also receive training on legislation, including IPSEA Legal training; Council for Disabled Children & IASSN SEND related training; you will also receive regular supervision & ongoing support from the Solihull SENDIAS team.

* Criminal Record check (DBS) will be required for this role
* Expenses will be reimbursed.

Volunteering can help you learn and develop new skills, work with new people, boost your CV credentials or make a difference in your community.

If you would like to volunteer, you can apply using the volunteer application form or call Solihull SENDIAS for more information on 0121 516 5173.