



Spectrum Volunteering

General Overview

Life at Spectrum is always interesting, engaging, rewarding and a lot of fun.

We are a family-based charity that is passionate about inclusion. We are dedicated to reducing the isolation that many families feel when caring for a child/children with additional needs. We have grown into a nationwide charity which helps registered families and carers across the country. Spectrum is an inclusive group, and our volunteers support many different disabilities and additional needs.

"When we joined Spectrum we felt very alone and lost, but with their help and the support of their fantastic volunteers, we feel like we have found a family of like-minded people who have helped us through many difficult times. Thank you Spectrum Team for providing us with the lifeline we needed!"

As a charity, Spectrum nurtures and encourages our child members to be themselves and improve their social development without judgement. We are also focused on providing emotional support to all our family members.

Roles at Spectrum are varied, and many of our volunteer opportunities focus around the delivery of fun family events, sessions and engaging projects. As a volunteer with Spectrum you would be part of a passionate parent-led team, helping to support some fantastic activities and make a significant difference to many families across the region.

There are so many different ways to volunteer with us; our volunteering roles are suitable for everyone, all we ask is that you are 16+ and that you have a passion for helping families with additional needs.

By joining our friendly team, you will be helping to change and support the lives of many vulnerable people.

What's in it for me?

- You will become part of a friendly, down-to-earth, passionate and dedicated team.
- You will help to deliver fun events, sessions and projects which will benefit thousands of families.
- You will be part of a team responsible for making memories which last a lifetime and often provide a much-needed lifeline for our members.
- You will get to meet many like-minded people, and you will certainly make new friends along the way.
- You will have the chance to develop your teamwork, organisational and communicational skills through experiences and opportunities.
- You will be part of a dynamic team, helping to grow our wonderful charity in a fresh, strategic and thoughtful way.
- You will have the opportunity to enjoy new experiences through our events, projects and the amazing families we work with.
- You will be making a difference in your community.

"Volunteering with Spectrum has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I feel part of a big family, and it is really gratifying to know that I am able to help support so many children with additional needs. No two days have been the same so far whilst volunteering with Spectrum, but all of them have been thoroughly enjoyable."

What's involved in volunteering at Spectrum?

We have many different volunteer roles at Spectrum. We welcome diversity, and our different roles are perfect for people with varying interests, passions and skills. Our roles include but are not limited to:

- Providing assistance at one or many of our events, sessions and away days.
- Helping to create and deliver some of our new and exciting projects.
- Working alongside parents, schools and organisations to raise awareness of Spectrum's profile in the local area and inclusion for our members.
- Supporting our fundraising events with fresh ideas, promotion in the community and funding for our projects.
- Providing administrative support.
- Participating in peer support programmes with our members.
- Working on a range of creative digital content over different media
- Assisting us with different aspects of social media and marketing.

Am I suitable for volunteering at Spectrum?

The following characteristics would make you a fantastic volunteer at Spectrum and help you make the most of volunteering.

- A passion for what we do, our aims and objectives.
- An enthusiastic, encouraging and friendly manner.
- An ability to thrive in dynamic roles.
- Dependability and an empathetic nature.
- Adaptability and the confidence to deal with busy periods efficiently.
- A keen interest in supporting children and their families.
- The ability to work as part of a team or on your own as the role requires.
- A confidential manner, ensuring that you support the aims and objectives of Spectrum at all times.

Additionally beneficial

- A good understanding of technology, web services and email.
- Prior knowledge and experience of disabilities are desirable (non-essential).

If you feel that you have some or all of these qualities, we would love to hear from you!

How much time do I need to give?

In general, there is no minimum time requirement, but some roles do benefit from regular involvement, e.g. a minimum of 4 hours per month. You can decide with our team what arrangement works for you while also meeting Spectrum's needs and priorities.

Where will I be volunteering?

Our locations are as varied as our roles, and we can provide you with many options. Some of our roles can be achieved from home while other roles such as assisting at an event would take place at a specified venue.

How old do I need to be?

We ask all our volunteers to be 16+. If you are under 16 and you feel that you would like to volunteer with us, then you will need to shadow a parent or guardian at all times. Your family member will need to complete a DBS, volunteer registration form and relevant training.

What happens after I complete my registration?

Once you have registered with us, we would expect you to complete a volunteer registration form. Upon becoming a Spectrum volunteer, you will need to complete the following:

- A DBS check (if 16 or over).
- Within your first three months, you'll be expected to complete an online Child Protection course alongside Equality & Diversity and Prevent Duty.
- Additional e-courses are also available to expand your skillsets if you wish.
- You will be provided with access to our team network for communication and event coordination.
- You will receive some shadowing and further training if required.
- You will receive support from our experienced volunteers so that you are confident in what we are asking you to do and familiar with our processes.

Will I be paid?

- As a charity offering volunteer roles, we do not offer paid employment, contracts or wages to our volunteers.
- We will pay out-of-pocket expenses that are agreed in advance.

Are you interested in joining us?

If this sounds like something you would love to get involved in right away and help make a difference, then please complete our online application form: www.spectrum.org.uk/volunteers/ - We aim to respond to within 7 days.

Find out more

If you would like to know a little more about volunteering with us before completing our registration process, or if you have any questions, then please either:

- Call us on **01223 955404**
- Email us at hello@spectrum.org.uk
- Reach us via our Live Chat service on our website at www.spectrum.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

This role overview is a general summary and informational only. It is not a contract or legally binding. You should support the aims and objectives of Spectrum at all times as well as respecting and maintaining our confidentiality the confidentiality of those we support.

#WEARESPECTRUM