

Buddying - How does it work?

Volunteer Buddy



If someone wants to be a Volunteer Buddy, they must have a meeting with the volunteer manager. They will get a role description to read and be asked questions about themselves and why they want to be a Volunteer Buddy.

They will come to volunteer induction training where they will learn about how to be a buddy and how to be safe.

They will do a DBS and provide 2 references. These references should be professionals that know them well.

They will commit to being a Volunteer Buddy for at least 6 months.

Member



If someone with a learning disability would like a Buddy they will have a meeting with the Projects Manager.

In this meeting they will tell us about themselves and what they would like.

They will provide 2 references, these should be people that know them well.

After this has happened it might take some time before there is a good match. Wirral Mencap will match people based on their personalities and other things.



When a match has been found there will be a meeting with a staff member from Wirral Mencap where the Volunteer Buddy and the Member can meet each other. At the meeting they will get to know each other a little bit and make a plan for when and where they would like to meet again. They will also sign a Buddy Agreement. A member of staff from Wirral Mencap will attend the next meeting too. After this, the Volunteer buddy and member can meet regularly. They will let Wirral Mencap know the days and times they are meeting.



The Volunteer Buddy will meet with the Projects Manager every 2 months to talk about how it is going.



The Member will meet with the Projects Manager every 2 months to talk about how it is going.

Wirral Mencap will support the buddy relationship for **up to one year** from the first meeting. Wirral Mencap will still be there to support the member after this time.