



Redhill Hub Volunteer | Role Profile

Updated April 2023

ABOUT US

Big Leaf Foundation is a small charity working with displaced young people in Surrey. Our aim is to provide a nurturing programme of activities, projects and events that focus on combating social isolation and improving wellbeing for the young people we support. The experience of arriving in a new country is, for many young people, overwhelming and incredibly difficult. They are often cut off from everything that is familiar to them, leaving them vulnerable to loneliness, isolation, anxiety and boredom. Our founders saw an opportunity to change their situation and help them feel a sense of inclusion within a network of their peers and the wider community.

We want to engage the young people we work with to be excited about the opportunities available to them, and to value their unique talents and abilities so that they can rediscover their potential and move forward with renewed optimism. We want to support and empower these young people to know that they are more than the status they have been given and help them find their place within their local community.

OUR VALUES

Trust & Transparency | Nothing is more important than trust, because so many of our young people have experienced a world in which they can trust nobody. It's essential that we build a relationship based on trust with our young people, and that they have confidence we will always act in their best interests. We achieve this by maintaining high standards of honesty and transparency at all times.

Equality | We approach everything we do with a deep sense of empathy and compassion. We strive to create a sense of community to which we all belong, on equal footing and to create a safe, secure and non-judgemental space for young people to engage and build new friendships, explore new activities, and uncover their talents and passions.

Growth | Everything we do is focused on promoting the personal growth of our young people – growth that allows them to know they are more than the status they have been given and that each one of them is unique and valued.

ABOUT THE ROLE

We're looking for volunteers in East Surrey to join our team and help provide a nurturing programme of activities as part of our weekly drop-in Redhill Hub.

- **Salary:** Voluntary (+expenses)
- **Location:** Redhill
- **Hours:** 2.5 hrs per week | Wednesday 6pm - 8.30pm
- **Commitment:** Minimum 6 months
- **Reports to:** East Surrey Caseworker

Taking place on Wednesdays, Hub activities will include English language practice, homework support, basic arts and crafts and games. The aim of the weekly Hub is to provide an opportunity for local displaced young people to come together in a safe, familiar and welcoming space. In order to build trust and make it a safe space, we are looking for **regular** volunteers who can **commit on a weekly** or (minimum) bimonthly basis.

KEY TASKS

- Support the East Surrey Caseworker to deliver weekly activities for displaced young people (aged 16-21).
- Communicate sensitively and supportively to deliver activities.
- Motivate and inspire the young people we support to actively engage in the activities/opportunities available to them.
- Ensure the health and safety of participants at all times.
- Report any incidents, accidents or safeguarding issues
- Provide feedback and contribute to project evaluations as required.
- Read, understand and agree to Big Leaf Foundation's Safeguarding policy and Code of Conduct.
- Liaise with other members of the Big Leaf Foundation team as needed to fulfil the role.

SKILLS

Essential

- Experience of working with young people.
- Strong empathy and communication skills including sensitive, effective communication with people whose first language isn't English.
- Flexibility and the ability to adapt to the diverse needs of displaced young people.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Passion for the role and commitment to Big Leaf's aims and values.

Desirable

- Ability to speak one or more refugee community language.
- Previous experience of befriending and/or direct youth work with young refugees and asylum seekers.
- Understanding of the issues and experiences of young people who are coming to the UK as asylum seekers and refugees.

Please note: Recruitment is done in line with safe recruitment practices. Applicants for this role will be required to undergo a DBS check.

What we provide:

- An introduction to Safeguarding.
- Supervision and support from one of the senior members of the team.

This is a great opportunity to:

- Gain experience supporting refugees.
- Be part of an exciting start-up charity.
- Learn about our work and the refugee crisis.

TO APPLY

If you feel that you have the skills, experience and motivation required for this role, please [download and complete our volunteer application form](#) and return it to Ella at contact@bigleafoundation.org.uk.