###

**Title:** Passing the Baton Befriender

**Basis:** Volunteer

**Safeguarding:** Volunteers are disclosure checked by Bethany Christian Trust

**Responsible to:** Passing the Baton staff

**Responsible for:** Supporting individuals to make community connections

**Summary of the role:**

A trustworthy and compassionate individual, willing to befriend a person who is socially isolated and may also struggle with addiction, homelessness and mental health issues; creating a healthy, meaningful relationship; encouraging and practically helping them to make at least 2 community connections with the support of Passing the Baton staff.

**General responsibilities:**

* Develop a companionship level relationship with their befriendee (we match male-male and female-female)
* Accompany the befriendee to social activities and community groups. Befrienders do not go into the befriendee’s home
* Participate in induction and on-going training as appropriate and adhere to all procedures and policies
* Send number of hours you spend with the befriendee, on a monthly basis, to Passing the Baton staff.

**Important pre-requisites for the role:**

* Be 18 years old or over
* A person of Christian faith, rooted in a Christian community
* A befriender should have integrity, be reliable and non-judgemental and be aware of confidentiality issues which may arise regarding the individual. We work with people of all faith and no faith.
* Be able to operate under the guidance and support of Passing the Baton staff
* Be sociable and have an approachable manner
* Have good time management and organisational skills

**Location**

* We operate within Edinburgh
* As far as possible, we will try and match you to a befriendee who is geographically close to you.

**Pattern of hours**

* It may be necessary, for the first 2-3 months, to meet up with the befriendee for 1.5 – 2 hours every 1-2 weeks to build a relationship before taking them to a group.
* We recommend, in the early stages, staying with the befriendee when visiting a new community group for the whole time, then gradually reducing your time.
* Where possible, we encourage you to meet during Bethany office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) to ensure a staff member is available in case of emergency.

**Training and support available**

* All befrienders will receive the necessary Passing the Baton training before becoming a befriender
* Befrienders are encouraged to come to additional training and support evenings
* Passing the Baton staff will contact befrienders to offer help and support as and when required.
* Befrienders are encouraged to contact Passing the Baton staff if they have any problems or if staff can be of assistance to the befriender or befriendee.
* Passing the Baton staff can provide befriending cover, such as when befrienders go on holiday or are ill.
* Expenses can be reimbursed in accordance with Bethany’s volunteer policy

Reviewed Nov 2021