

Woodwork Sidekick – Trowbridge

About Mencap

Mencap is the leading voice of learning disability.

Everything we do is about valuing and supporting people with a learning disability, and their families and carers.

Our vision is a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to and included.

About this team

We are a busy and caring team who look after a range of supported living services in Trowbridge for people with learning disabilities.

We support a mixture of men and women, and they are a great group of characters with individual interests and hobbies

Why we need volunteers?

1.4 million people in the UK have a learning disability.

A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities which affects someone for their whole life.

People with a learning disability tend to have smaller social networks and their relationships are not as strong as those of people without a learning disability.

34% of adults with a learning disability have no more than yearly contact with friends.

Volunteers based in our services can reduce social isolation, expand networks and build friendships.

Come and join us in making this difference!



What will I be doing?

You will meet regularly one of the gentlemen we support with learning disabilities who would really enjoy the company and attention of a volunteer.

The gentleman we support loves woodwork, and with the support of staff he uses his creativity and talent to make wonderful pieces.

However, he would really benefit from the support of a volunteer with woodwork experience. Someone who was able to pass on tips and techniques, and support with his woodworking.

He's also interested in the theatre and classical music concerts. We hope that as a volunteer Sidekick you will help him to enjoy his interests more often, as well as bringing companionship and fun.

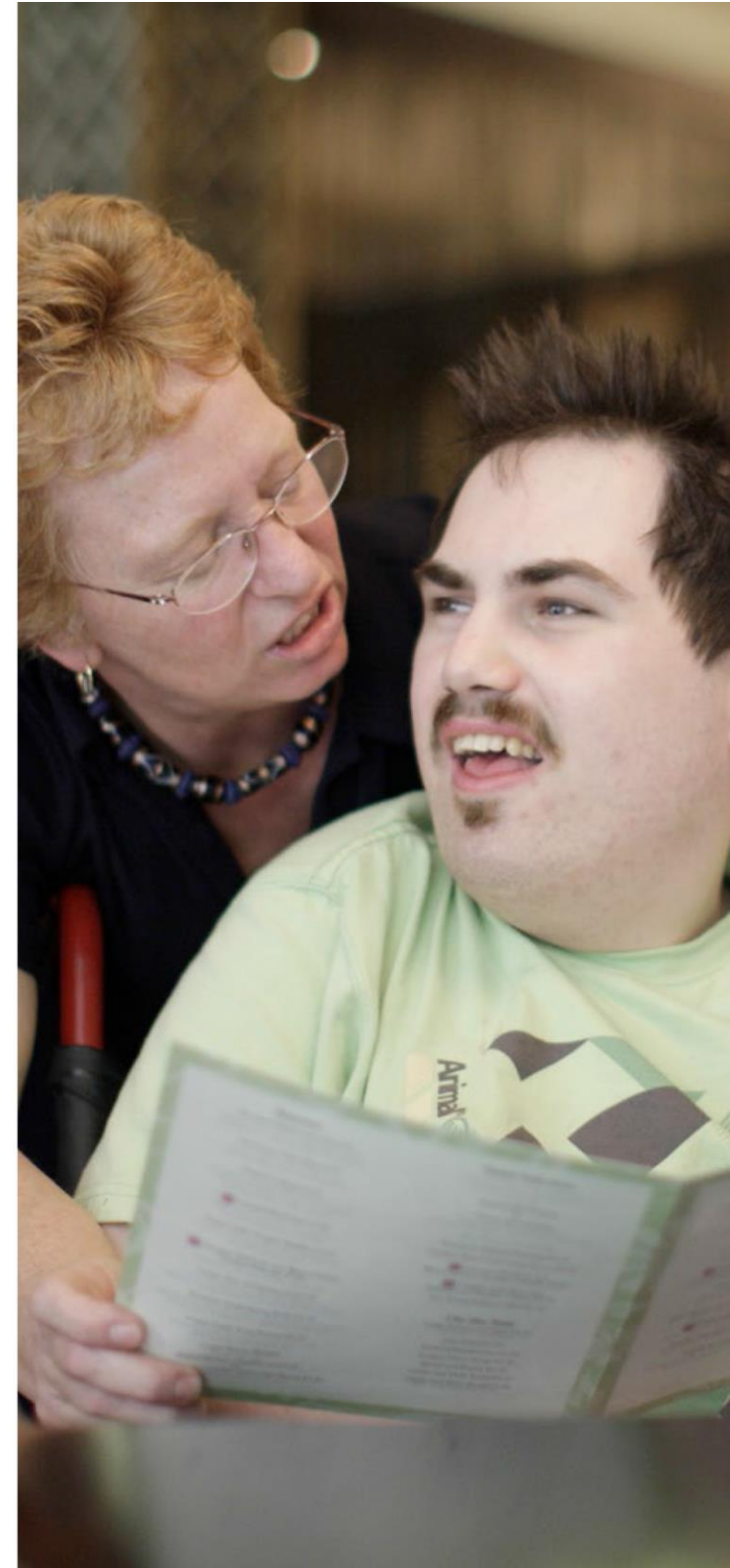
We believe this will make a huge difference to his wellbeing and happiness.

An enhanced DBS check will be required by all successful applicants.

What skills do I need?

To be a Woodwork Sidekick you will need:

- To be over 18 years of age
- Have some knowledge and experience of woodwork
- Have a good sense of humour
- Be friendly and approachable
- Be reliable and patient
- Be interested in others
- Be able to use initiative
- Be accepting of others who might be different to yourself
- Be able or willing to learn how to manage challenging behaviour
- Be willing to volunteer within guidelines and take direction



What days and times do I need to be available?

You would volunteer for 2 – 4 hours on a fortnightly basis.

This is a flexible volunteering role and will mostly be determined by the people we support.

We are also asking that you commit to at least 6 months of volunteering.

What can I expect from Mencap?

As a Volunteer with Mencap you can expect:

- Relevant induction/training
- Induction to the service and volunteer role
- A settling in period to make sure this is the right role for you
- To feel fully supported in your role
- Agreed out-of-pocket expenses to be reimbursed (e.g. travel)
- The opportunity to meet new people and be part of a diverse team
- The opportunity to learn new skills
- To feel appreciated and valued for my contribution



Volunteering with Mencap

"Volunteering with Darren has given me so much. I've improved my confidence and well-being, I can see how much he gets out of the sessions each week. I'm so proud of him because he's worked so hard and is making a positive difference to his life."

Lisa (Volunteer Progression Mentor)

"People might think volunteering for Mencap involves directly supporting people with a learning disability, but we use the skills we already have and give something back in a practical way. Volunteering helps keep us active and feeling young."

Archie and Dave (Volunteer Handymen)

"I love volunteering and would recommend it to everyone. It's a great way to gain lots of experience, have fun and make friends. I also think I have made a lot of difference as a volunteer."

Lloyd (Events Volunteer & Programmes Team Support Volunteer)

Our Values

These values describe who we aspire to be and what we stand for:

INCLUSIVE

We are **Inclusive**. People with a learning disability are at the heart of everything we do.

TRUSTWORTHY

We are **Trustworthy**. When we promise something, we don't let people down.

Caring

We are **Caring**. We treat everyone with respect and kindness.

chALLENGING

We are **Challenging**. When we see things that aren't fair we will campaign until we see real change.

POSITIVE

We are **Positive**. We never stop believing in a better future and we celebrate what we are proud of now.

Does this sound like you?

If so, we'd love to hear from you – apply to volunteer with Mencap today!

