

## LGBT+ volunteer mentors

### Who we are

At Porchlight, we help people who have nowhere to go and no-one to turn to; some people are homeless, others are struggling to cope with the pressures in their lives and need our support to keep on track.

We support around 5,000 people every year, but we couldn't do it without the hard work and commitment of supporters, partners, funders, volunteers and staff, and of course, the people that we support.

### Supporting young LGBT+ people

There is very little support across Kent for young LGBT+ people and we are determined to change this. At Porchlight, we have a long history of supporting homeless LGBT+ young people and we understand that everyone's story is different.

**The BeYou Project** is our Kent-wide service for LGBT+ young people, which offers advice, guidance and safe, inclusive spaces that allow young LGBT+ people to express themselves in a supportive environment.

We also work with other agencies, schools, colleges and youth groups, delivering training on how to overcome unintended barriers and create LGBT+-friendly environments.

### Our volunteer programme

Could you use your experience to mentor LGBT+ young people?

The BeYou Project needs volunteer mentors for 13 to 18-year-olds who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary or are questioning their sexual orientation and / or gender identity.

### Could you help?

We're after people who can give up a few hours each week to help staff a BeYou social group (safe spaces for LGBT+ young people to meet up). You'll be offering advice to help young people address any concerns or worries relating to their sexuality, gender identity or expression. This involves:

- Being someone LGBT+ young people can talk to about issues they are facing.
- Helping them improve their confidence and self-esteem
- Encouraging them to pursue their passions and develop their talents
- Getting them involved with activities happening in the local area

### What we need from you

- Someone who can talk with, motivate and engage young people
- You should have a good understanding of the issues LGBT+ young people face
- We ask that volunteers undergo some training (provided by Porchlight)
- Two references will be required and a DBS check will be undertaken

- We're looking for a minimum commitment of six months' mentoring

### Benefits for you as a volunteer

- You can help young people gain the confidence to move forward with their lives
- You'll receive training for the role
- You will gain valuable experience of supporting young people
- We will provide a reference for future work, study and volunteering opportunities

### Next steps

To request an application form please email the team at [beyou@porchlight.org.uk](mailto:beyou@porchlight.org.uk)

To find out more about the BeYou Project, visit [thebeyouproject.co.uk](http://thebeyouproject.co.uk)