Volunteering FAQs
Easy Read

What will I do as a volunteer for Mencap?

There are many different roles you can do as a volunteer with Mencap. Some of our volunteers work directly with people with a learning disability or you can support Mencap to raise awareness of learning disability through events.

How old do I need to be to volunteer?

For some roles, you need to be over 16 years old and for others, you will need to be over 18 years old. Young people under 18 will need consent from their parent / guardian. There is no upper age limit for our volunteers.

Can I get support to volunteer if I have a disability?

Yes. Please get in touch so we can talk about what roles might suit your skills and any additional support or adjustments you may need.

Will I need a DBS check?

A **DBS** check is a **D**isclosure and **B**arring **S**ervice check and looks at whether you have a criminal record. For some roles Mencap will need a DBS check carried out but this will be discussed with you.

I have a criminal record – can I still volunteer?

Yes. But if you have a criminal record and would like to volunteer in a role which needs a **DBS** check, you will need to tell us when you apply. We will make a case–by–case decision about whether or not you can volunteer in this role.

I don't have much time – can I still volunteer?

Yes. Some of our volunteering opportunities are for set amounts of time, but others are flexible. We look

for at least 6 months commitment. Please contact your Regional Volunteer Coordinator for details.

Can I volunteer for more than one service / project with Mencap?

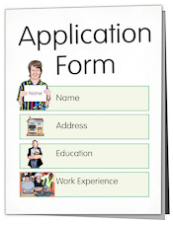
Yes. However, we recommend that volunteers do not volunteer in more than three roles at a time.

Will volunteering affect my benefits?

Volunteering shouldn't affect your benefits but we suggest you ask for advice from the Job Centre or your employment advisor.

Will volunteering cost me anything?

No. Mencap will pay agreed out-of-pocket expenses that you may have whilst volunteering (e.g. travel / meals / activity costs whilst volunteering).



How do I apply to be a volunteer?

1. Online, using our online system – search our current opportunities here: **http://jobs.mencap.org.uk**

2. Easy-read paper application – contact **volunteering@mencap.org.uk** for an easy-read application form.

Will I have to do an interview?

Some roles will need an interview, and others may need a chat about what you will be doing.

Will I need to give references?

Some roles will need references and some won't.

How long will it be from when I apply to when I start volunteering?

We hope to have volunteers starting within **4 weeks** of application, but sometimes **DBS** checks and references mean it can take longer.

What training will I get as a volunteer?

All volunteers will be able to attend a "Welcome to Mencap" day, and have an induction with the team they are volunteering with. Some roles will need extra training and this will be discussed with you.

What support will I get?

In the team you are volunteering with, you will have a volunteer manager who you can go to for help, support and guidance. You will have regular contact with this manager.

Will you provide me with a reference when I have finished volunteering for you?

Yes. You may ask for a reference or certificate of achievement upon leaving, or sooner if you need one for a job or college application.

Who should I contact if I have more questions about volunteering with Mencap?

North – Alex Hawkey – Alex.hawkey@mencap.org.uk
Central & Cymru – Emma Cross – Emma.Cross@mencap.org.uk
South – Becky Mumford – Becky.mumford@mencap.org.uk
Northern Ireland – Shiona Heslip – shiona.heslip@mencap.org.uk