

Role: Gingerbread Group Lead Volunteer

Gingerbread is the leading national charity working with single parent families in England and Wales. We want a society in which single parent families are treated equally and fairly and have the support they need. To get there, we provide information to help single parents support themselves and their family through our information pages, helpline, forum, and peer support groups. To create lasting change we campaign and influence policy to reduce stigma against single parents, and make services more accessible to all families.

Single parent volunteers are essential to running the local Gingerbread Friendship Groups.

Role Title	Gingerbread Group Lead Volunteer
Role Summary	As Volunteer Gingerbread Group Lead your role is to set up and run a local group, facilitate ongoing engagement with group members, through monthly meetups and online social media platforms, and to liaise with Gingerbread around necessary information sharing.
Purpose of the Role	<p>Gingerbread friendship groups offer a chance for single parent families to create meaningful connections through meeting new people both on social media platforms and in person, to share experiences or coping mechanisms. Run by single parent volunteers, they are a space for single parents to support each other and share the highs and lows of parenting, or just to have a cuppa and a chat while your children play.</p> <p>The aims of the Gingerbread group are to develop meaningful connections and friendships between local single parents and to facilitate access to peer guidance and advice amongst single parents.</p>
When and where?	Monthly meet ups: varied day, times and hours to suit individual needs



Weekly engagement on social media

We ask you agree to volunteer with us for a minimum of 6 months, however, we understand you may need to take a break from time to time due to other commitments.

Supported by

- Regional Volunteer Coordinator Helen Blackburn (North) or Alex (South).
- Volunteers are also encouraged to give each other support.

Description of tasks

- Set up a local Gingerbread Facebook Group using Gingerbread templates
- Advertise in the local area using both paper flyers, and digital flyer to send to local organisations
- Welcome new members via email and Facebook message
- Arrange and promote monthly meet ups face to face or with some online options
- Cascade information from Gingerbread to group members
- Promote engagement and communications between single parents - including facilitating regular connection on social media
- Signpost group members to Gingerbread for any information, advice or guidance
- If needed, identify a Group Admin Volunteer to support with recruiting and onboarding new members, and lead on submitting evaluation and monitoring data to Gingerbread
- Attend online regional coordinator meetings every 2 months
- Communicate with your named Gingerbread contact through support sessions and wider volunteer sessions.
- Undertake induction, safeguarding training and any further training as required.
- Keep in touch with your named contact to inform them of your activities and share any concerns or support needed and participate in occasional reviews.

Skills, experience and qualities needed

As a single parent, you'll know the challenges that being a single parent can bring, so you already have the main qualification! You will also need the following:

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- A friendly, proactive and professional attitude
 - Clear communication skills and the ability to communicate with a wide range of people
 - An inclusive and non-judgemental approach
 - Strong community ties with an ability to build networks
 - Reliable, well-organised and collaborative
 - Empathy and understanding of single parents' experiences
 - Willingness to take part in an induction, safeguarding training and additional training opportunities
 - Able to embrace Gingerbread's values which include being trustworthy, supportive and inclusive

What you will gain

- The opportunity to share or develop new skills such as communication, leadership and organisational skills in a friendly and supportive environment
- The opportunity to support people in your local community and make a real difference in the lives of single parents
- A platform for building confidence and enhancing your wellbeing
- Knowledge and experience within the charity sector along with opportunities to be involved in other areas of Gingerbread
- Being part of an enthusiastic and dedicated team
- Building your CV or giving examples to talk about on application forms or in interviews
- Ongoing support and networking opportunities

Things you need to know

- If successful we will take up two references and conduct a basic DBS criminal record check as part of the recruitment process. Please note, having a criminal record does not necessarily prevent you from volunteering with us.
 - Volunteers must agree to follow the Volunteer Agreement including following Gingerbread's relevant policies and procedures, and acting in accordance with our values and expectations
 - We welcome applications from people from all backgrounds and from people with disabilities
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How to apply

- If you have any questions, please contact peersupport@gingerbread.org.uk
- When you are ready, please complete the online form [here](#).

Once we receive your application, we will contact you to arrange an informal interview.
