

## Recruiting young people

### Information you should provide

When promoting a volunteering opportunity it's useful if you can provide details about what is involved – i.e. the role description. This helps the child, young person or family decide whether the opportunity is suitable for them and whether they are able to take it up. Even if you are providing opportunities for young people to take up without their parents, it is good practice to make this information available to parents to ensure they are aware of the activity the young person will be doing and that they feel it is suitable for their child.

### Obtaining parental permission

It is a good practice to obtain a written consent from a parent or guardian of a person below 16 years of age who intends to volunteer. When giving a consent form to a volunteer, also provide a volunteer role description and publicity leaflets for the organisation. This will help to ensure that the volunteer's parent/guardian understands what your organisation does, what the young person will be doing, when and where they will be working and consents to this.

If the volunteer will be working away from the premises where they normally volunteer, then additional permission should be sought.

It may not always be possible to obtain parental/guardian consent for volunteers aged 16-18, however volunteer managers should encourage volunteers in this age group to discuss their volunteering activities with their parents/guardians. It is also a good practice to obtain emergency contact information for anyone undertaking a volunteering activity.

When using photos of young volunteers for publicity purposes you need to obtain their permission and, if they are under 16, the permission of their parent/guardian to use them. If a young person is over 16 and is living independently of parents or social services, they are able to provide their own consent.

### Consider how they will get to/from the opportunity

If you are creating an opportunity for a child or young person you should consider the location and time of the opportunity, and how they will travel to and from the activity. An opportunity that finishes after dark in a location away from public transport may make it hard for young volunteers to take part. Your organisation should assess any risks associated with traveling to and from the opportunity and put measures in place to reduce these, e.g. arranging for the group to walk together, ensuring that any taxi companies used are reputable and exploring whether they have drivers with DBS clearance.