POST: ***Volunteer Social Group Facilitator (Adults Service)***

LOCATION: **Barnet**

SALARY: ***Voluntary Role***

HOURS: **2-3 hours per week**

Reports to: ***Adults Coordinator***

Direct Reports: **NA**

About Resources for Autism (RfA)

Since 1997 when we started as a small playgroup set up by parents dismayed at the lack of provision for their autistic children, Resources for Autism (RfA) has grown into a major deliverer of services and support in London and the West Midlands with a turnover of around £2.5m per year. Our mission is to support and enable autistic people to live happy and fulfilling lives. We want to change society's attitude to autism whilst also providing essential services and enriching opportunities to autistic people. We are a values-driven organisation which employs values-driven people who want to make a difference. Our values are: Inclusion, Creativity, Compassion, Courageousness and Expert. You will play a vital part in ensuring that we can resource and sustain this amazing work.

Our Services

All of our services across children and adults and parent/carers, mirror the wider organisational mission of providing safe, fun and meaningful support that enables personal development. We provide this support by ensuring our staff are skilfully trained, meet the highest safeguarding expectations and are encouraged to develop and upskill throughout their career with Resources for Autism.

The Role

RfA's Adults Service empowers autistic adults to connect, thrive and build friendships through social groups, workshops and community-based activities. We are looking for two volunteer group facilitators to work together to deliver weekly social sessions for autistic adults. You'll help create a welcoming and inclusive space where people can build confidence, develop social connections and enjoy positive shared experiences. This is a friendly drop-in group that meets weekly in the community, such as a local café, providing

an opportunity for autistic adults to connect with like-minded peers in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Main Responsibilities:

- Facilitate weekly social group sessions for autistic adults in the community.
- Support participants to build confidence and reduce social isolation.
- Create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Encourage participation, social connection and confidence building.
- Adapt your approach to meet individual needs.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and follow RfA safeguarding procedures.

Flexibility

Dependent on the group, this role may require evening availability.

Person Specification

Skills and experience	**Essential**	**Desirable**
Interest and/or experience in Autism	**x**	
Able to commit to attending weekly group sessions	**x**	
Ability to adapt communication styles	**x**	
Empathy, patience, compassion and a non-judgemental approach	**x**	
Willingness to complete induction training before supporting in-group	**x**	
Standard skills expected of all volunteers		
Excellent communication skills (written and verbal)	**X**	
Reliable and punctual, with good organisational skills	**X**	
Willingness to follow safeguarding procedures	**X**	
IT skills: proficient with Office 365		**X**

Confidentiality

You will have access to confidential information concerning families and other service users and will be required to maintain confidentiality at all times.

Why Volunteer With Us?

You'll be joining a friendly and supportive organisation where 90% of staff say Resources for Autism is a great place to work. Not only will the work you do ensure we are making vital differences and inspiring others, but our other benefits also include:

- access to ongoing training and progress in the areas that interest you
- a supportive, warm and fun working environment made up of values driven people who are passionate about changing the world for autistic people

Application process:

In order that we adhere to Safer Recruitment processes, all applicants are required to complete an application form which must include your **full** employment history with clear details, any gaps in employment need to be outlined and explained. You are also required to provide details of your education history.

In your personal statement we would like to see how you feel you meet the person specification and the requirements/responsibilities of the role.

If for any reason, such as due to accessibility, you feel you would struggle to complete an application form you can contact us via the below email and we may explore other options with you.

To discuss the role informally or if you need to contact us you can contact the HR team via recruitment@resourcesforautism.org.uk

We particularly welcome applications from global majority candidates, LGBTQIA+ candidates and disabled candidates, because we would like to increase the representation of these groups at Resources for Autism. We want to do this because we know greater diversity will lead to even greater results for our community.

As you would expect, we are a neuro-affirming employer, with a strengths and rights based approach to neurodiversity which affirms neurodivergent identity – we don't want to "fix" or "cure" autism, and we don't see it as a "disability" however we do recognise it can be "disabling". We are working to improve the ways in which we recruit and support neurodiverse employees and those with lived experience of neurodiversity.

RfA is a Disability Confidant employer and candidates who meet the minimum essential criteria, that have a disability will be guaranteed an interview.

Deadline for applications: 17 Nov
Interviews: 24 Nov