# Someone Like Me volunteer – Job Description

Kinship carers are raising over 200,000 relative’s or friend’s children in the UK, and many are struggling alone without the support and information they need. Kinship carers often just need to ‘offload’ and talk to someone who knows the issues and difficulties they might be facing.

Someone Like Me is a telephone peer support service for kinship carers who have requested support on a one-to-one basis.

As current or former kinship carers – you are in the best position to help by offering emotional support to kinship carers who need a listening ear from someone who understand what they are going through and, where appropriate, reflecting back on your own personal experience.

The Someone Like Me service wants to reach out to even more kinship carers, and by becoming part of a dedicated and committed team of volunteers, you will be providing vital support and helping other kinship carers realise they are not alone.

Most importantly, you’ll be helping other kinship carers to feel less alone.

**Purpose of the role**

* To contact kinship carers by telephone to provide emotional and moral support

**Location and requirements**

* You will be home-based, anywhere in England and Wales
* You will also need access to a phone and a computer with the internet, email and a confidential space from which to work
* All calls are routed through Kinship’s telephone system, with coded logins so your number will not be visible and there will be no cost to you

**Time commitment**

* Regular commitment of a minimum of 2-3 hours per week, Monday-Friday, at a time that suits you
* We ask for a minimum commitment of one year whilst recognising that people’s circumstances may change.

**Minimum age:** 18

**What will I be doing?**

* You will be matched with kinship carers who have requested additional support and:
* Calling your assigned kinship carers and providing emotional and moral support through supportive listening and empathy
* Reflecting on, and sharing your own experiences where appropriate and if it is helpful to the kinship carer
* Signposting kinship carers needing advice to our advice service, or other information and support services in their local area
* Completing post-call forms call for each contact to measure impact and help us ensure we’re supporting kinship carers
* Working within the boundaries of the charity’s confidentiality and data protection policies

**Is the role right for you?**

We need current or former kinship carers who are dedicated and want to proactively make a difference to the lives of other kinship carers. In particular, we are looking for people with the following skills and qualities:

* An empathetic and friendly telephone manner
* Able to build a rapport with people and put them at ease
* Warmth, understanding, sensitivity and a willingness to listen
* Ability to be supportive and non-judgemental
* An ability to sensitively reflect on and share your experiences in a way that supports and empowers other kinship carers, without giving advice
* Ability to communicate clearly over the phone and in writing
* An understanding of the need for confidentiality

**What will you gain from the role?**

* Induction and Training to equip you with the skills to carry out the role
* Ongoing support and supervision from the Volunteer Officer
* Reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses (where appropriate, on production of a receipt)
* Membership to our Kinship Care network with opportunities to attend events and special kinship care events

**What are the benefits of volunteering with us?**

* The opportunity to volunteer from home at a time that suits you
* The opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge
* The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference to the lives of kinship carers
* The chance to feel connected with other kinship carers feeling and working towards a common goal

**How to apply**

Please complete our Volunteer Application and Equal Opportunities Forms [here.](https://kinship.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-interest-form/)

**Before you start**

* Kinship will ask you to provide the names of two people who have known you for at least 2 years who can offer a reference for you; this could be a colleague or friend, but not a family member.
* You will be required to attend and complete the induction training sessions
* You’ll have conversations with our Volunteer Officer throughout the process to make sure the volunteer role is a good fit for you and for the charity
* If you have any questions or would like further information about the role, please contact the Volunteer Officer by email: volunteer@kinship.org.uk