



## The Ambassador Volunteer Programme

### Supporting Families with SEND



Hi, I'm Sarah and I am very excited to introduce myself as the Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator for Devon, working alongside DIAS (Devon Information, Advice & Support Service) and the Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD).

The programme provides peer support for parent carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Having someone to talk to who really understands the challenges faced can make such a difference.

We are very fortunate to have a well-established network of Ambassador Volunteers across Devon who have experience themselves of supporting children with SEND, either in their own families or in their jobs. They assist other parents by sharing information from DIAS and helping them to access their services. They also ensure the families' views on local services and support are fed back through the PCFD.

I make sure that these parents, carers and professionals are supported in their role, have access to relevant information and have the training and skills to support others. We work in partnership with families and other organisations such as Action for Children.

If you are interested and would like to know how to connect with an Ambassador Volunteer for support, or become an Ambassador yourself, please get in touch!

#### **Sarah Lord**

Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator

[sarah.lord@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lord@devon.gov.uk)

Tel: 07815 490088



**Ambassador Activities:**

- Share information from DiAS and other SEND support services with families
- Link with active support groups
- Develop support groups/networks locally
- Feedback through Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator to Parent Carer Forum Devon and DIAS
- Support at events
- Link with other Ambassadors
- Signpost to DIAS and promote their work
- Share information through digital platforms

**Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator:**

- Offers support to Ambassadors
- Delivers induction training
- Supports with Ambassador projects
- Links organisations and Ambassadors with similar remits and interests
- Delivers training and information sessions that are required / identified by Ambassadors in the community
- Works in partnership with the Parent Carer Forum to inform policy and influence change

**Pathway to becoming an Ambassador Volunteer:**

- Expression of interest followed by registration
- Induction training
- 1 to 1 focus meeting for individuals to discuss their volunteer role
- Attend online meetings and training (ongoing)
- Be an active volunteer in your community
- DIAS link across Devon – have contact with other AVs in the county

**To find out whether there is an AV to connect to in your area, please contact Sarah Lord, the Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator:**

**Email:** [Sarah.lord@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.lord@devon.gov.uk)

**Or message:** 07815 49008