

ARE YOU

**Just about to start, mid-way through
or just finished the Take Part
Learning Programme?**



WOULD YOU LIKE A BUDDY? WOULD YOU LIKE A BUDDY?



BUDDIES CAN:

- ☺ Be a source of guidance, insight and inspiration; a sounding board; a source of experience and examples; a resource for information and contacts
- ☺ Help you increase understanding, trust and confidence in public services and local democracy
- ☺ Help you to realize how your learning is practiced in the workplace and the places where decisions are made
- ☺ Offer you an insight into completely new areas of work
- ☺ Offer specific expertise, for example:

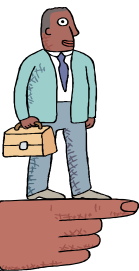
Public Speaking – ie. If you are not confident in public speaking and are due to give a presentation, you could have the opportunity to shadow someone when they deliver a public speech and then be offered support in preparing and delivering your own.

Minute Taking – Support from an 'expert' minute taker – who can perhaps shadow you the first time you take minutes and then help you to write them up afterwards.

Meetings – If it is your first time attending a meeting, a buddy could help you prepare, attend with you and have a quick de-brief with you as follow-up.

INTERESTED? Simply complete the attached application form and return it to: **Kath Pye, Black Country Take Part Path Finder, Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, 16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN**

Alternatively, email KPye@wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk



take part

pathfinder Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and managed by the Community Development Foundation.



Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council

Buddying - a brief for Take Part participants

People are being invited from the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors, to become Buddies to Take Part participants.

- The intention is for Buddies to provide advice, guidance and support to Take Part participants.
- In some instances, Buddies may be in a position to connect Take Part participants to new networks which support active citizenship.

A Buddy may be an individual working or volunteering in the same area of interest, or local authority area as a Take Part participant, or may have broader experiences which are of value to Take Part participants.

What it means

To you as a Take Part Participant - having a Take Part Buddy:

“You feel you cannot step out there - you want to - but you need a bridge that’s what a buddy gives you” [Ref](#)

Buddies can:

- be a source of guidance, insight and inspiration; a sounding board; a source of experience and examples; a resource for information and contacts
- help Take Part Participants to increase understanding, trust and confidence in public services and local democracy
- help Take Part Participants to realise how their learning is practiced in the workplace and the places where decisions are made
- offer Take Part Participants an insight into completely new areas of work
- offer specific expertise, for example:

Public Speaking - i.e. if a Participant wasn’t confident in public speaking and was due to give a presentation, the opportunity to shadow some-one when they did a public speech and then be offered support in preparing and delivering their own.

Minute Taking - Support from an ‘expert’ minute taker - who can perhaps shadow you the first time you take minutes and then help you to write them up afterwards.

Report Writing - it maybe that a participant would like advice and guidance in how to write a report or would like someone who can proof read their work for grammar and spelling etc.

To Take Part Buddies

Buddies will:

- ✓ share their skills, knowledge and experience
- ✓ make a difference to the experience of participants on the Take Part learning programme
- ✓ make a key contribution to a national initiative
- ✓ directly contribute to national indicators and local initiatives around citizen engagement by helping to develop active citizens of the future
- ✓ assist others to develop an enhanced understanding of the relationships and roles within the public and voluntary sectors, and in partnership arenas
- ✓ enhance their own personal learning through a unique insight into citizen experiences of services and democracy
- ✓ enjoy an intellectual challenge
- ✓ experience a sense of achievement and motivation, generated from their desire and enthusiasm to help

They will have opportunities to network with other Buddies, from different sectors. Prospective Buddies include:

- Previous participants of Take Part Learning Programmes
- People active in Take Part Learning Programmes
- Public sector officers
- Voluntary sector officers
- Individuals who are active in their communities, volunteering and supporting others
- MPs
- Councillors

What will happen next?

- If you would like a buddy please complete the attached application form
- The Take Part team will review your form and identify potential buddies

- There will be a Speed Buddying Event on the 13th May 2010. This will take place at The Beacon Centre for the Blind from 10.00am until 12.30pm.

Please return your form to:

Kath Pye
The Take Part Path Finder
Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
16 Temple Street
Wolverhampton WV2 4AN

Take Part Pathfinder Buddy Scheme

Participant Application form

Please complete all sections of the form and use additional paper if necessary

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

What would you like to gain from being part of the Take Part Buddy Scheme? Please outline if you would like to explore any particular topics or would like to develop any particular skills.

Do you have any particular requirements or expectations of your buddy e.g. would you like them to have any particular experiences or skills?