

Welcome to Nature Buddies

This document outlines the roles, responsibilities and processes of the Nature Buddies Network. The plan is to embed Nature Buddies into your existing offer, rather than dramatically increase workload so have kept additional requirements to a minimum.

Your involvement in this development of the Nature Buddies initiative is crucial to its success so please read and let us know if you have any comments, we will listen and amend, as required.

Roles & Responsibilities

Host Organisations (of volunteers and recipients)

- Oversee the running of their Nature Buddy volunteers
- Assist in promoting Nature Buddies
- Assist in evaluation of Nature Buddies and shape the delivery
- Be part of the Nature Buddies Network
- Feedback on progress in a timely manner

Nature Buddies Project Team

- Offer support to increase capacity - advice, funding for resources, training to upskill volunteers & staff
- Work in partnership to build a cohesive trusted offer for assisting people to access nature
- Organise and deliver networking opportunities to create a Nature Buddies Network
- Lead on promoting Nature Buddies on behalf of, and in conjunction, with partners
- Create an effective evaluation that can be shared widely, including carrying out interviews
- Work to identify additional funding to widen the offer

Volunteer Role

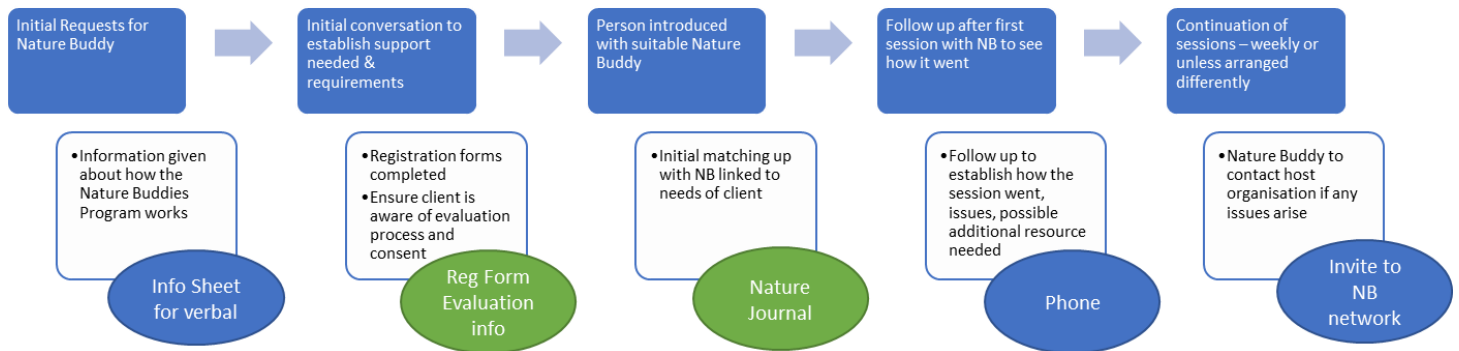
Role Title	Nature Buddy
Location of Position	Various across Dorset
Time Commitment	Minimum 4 hours / month
Remuneration	The role is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.
Responsible to	Project Manager
Purpose/ summary of role	<p>A Nature Buddy is a volunteer whose role is to support individuals at a very personalised level to help gradually increase their confidence and ability to enjoy engaging with nature again. A nature buddy will find what suits to the person best and will support them on their journey to living happier and healthier.</p> <p>The nature buddies will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular support to enable people to walk or visit their local parks and open spaces. • Encourage people who would not normally engage with outdoor environments • Work with the person on what activity they would like to do paying particular attention of likes, dislikes, past hobbies and interests to tailor the activity. • Be aware of the key messages and benefits of health and well-being, from being outdoors • Share knowledge and lesson learnt within a Nature Buddies Network organised by the project lead. (this will include adding to a journal after each visit) • Will be happy to help the participant complete a Nature Journal Evaluation booklet after each session.
Time Commitment	We are looking for volunteers who can commit to 4 hours a month initially. Volunteers will also be offered ongoing training and networking opportunities.
Skills & Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special qualifications or experience needed. • We are looking for volunteers who are understanding, patient, empathetic and good at listening. • You should be enthusiastic about the benefits of outdoor environments and have an interest in nature, although you don't have to be an expert. • All volunteers are subject to Disclosure and Barring checks.
Training & Support	You will be given induction training into the various aspects the work. You will receive ongoing training and peer support at regular volunteer meetings.
Reimbursement of expenses	<p>Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasonable transport expenses
Benefits to Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new friendships and in interpersonal skills • Feel part of making a meaningful difference to someone who needs your support • Gain experience in the social care sector or environmental sector. • Develop your understanding, and increase your connection, with the landscape, wildlife, history, culture
Application Procedure	Your procedure here
Contact Information	Your Details here

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How the process might work

The diagram below outlines how the process might work with the necessary evaluation forms highlighted in green. You may already have a process established to match potential clients to volunteers that you wish to follow. This is fine but we do ask you use the reg forms to enable us to gather data for our funders.



Forms Required

Nature Journal

- Physical 'Nature Journals' will be provided to host organisation.
- Nature Journal is to be handed out to the Nature Buddy volunteer and be filled in by them and their client.
- This is to help us capture how the sessions are progressing and help us shape the service to best fit.

Once completed (suggested time 12 sessions) the Nature Buddy will hand the journal back in. Completed forms will need to be returned to the project lead, either posted, scanned or collected.

Registration Form

- To be completed when a client first registers to Nature Buddy session.
- Completed forms will need to be returned to the project lead, either posted or scanned.
- No personal information will be shared with any third parties and will be held securely for the duration of the evaluation

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Informal Interviews

As part of the evaluation process we hope to carry out short informal interviews with people who have indicated they would be happy to take part. These will be carried out either in person or remotely.

We would hope to carry out interviews with the following:

- Recipients of Nature Buddy sessions
- Nature Buddy Volunteers
- Host Organisation

Promotion

We will develop the following marketing & promotional materials:

- Flyers with organisation contact details for both volunteers & clients
- Social Media Campaign
- Website presence on Stepping into Nature with links to organisations offering the service.
- Help & Kindness page listing organisations offering Nature Buddies as part of their offer (in development)
- Logo to be used on any promotional material

Thank you for considering taking part in the Nature Buddies pilot.

If you would like to take part in Nature Buddies, or have any queries, please get in touch ASAP.

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