

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR A BEFRIENDER**

### **ESSENTIAL**

- To be caring and empathetic;
- To be a good listener;
- To have good communication skills;
- To respect confidentiality;
- To be reliable;
- To be non-judgmental;
- To have a mature attitude to life;
- To be able to work within boundaries and in accordance with the charity's policies and procedures;
- To acknowledge the need to empower families and to work with them towards achievement of the 6 outcomes;
- To be free to befriend for a minimum of 6 hours a month;
- To be able to volunteer for a minimum period of 1 year;
- To be available to attend training, support and development Sessions.

### **DESIRABLE**

- To have some previous experience of helping people who are facing problems;
- To have sound written skills to help families with form filling and letter writing;
- To have some experience of researching information;
- To have good oral communication skills for advocating on behalf of families;
- To be willing to develop an understanding of court and prison systems and of state benefits.

(Updated March 2012)