



## Post lockdown optimism as the first of our volunteers 'Step into Childcare'



November 2021 saw the formation of an exciting new partnership between Volunteer Academy and Blackpool & The Fylde College, offering a bespoke opportunity for volunteers to kickstart a career in childcare.

The Step Into Childcare 6 week programme culminates in a level 1 qualification where volunteers are supported to develop new skills and experience that may lead to employment or higher qualification.

*Very best of luck to our student volunteers, we look forward to sharing their success stories soon!!*

## Our new Centre is the place to be in 2022!



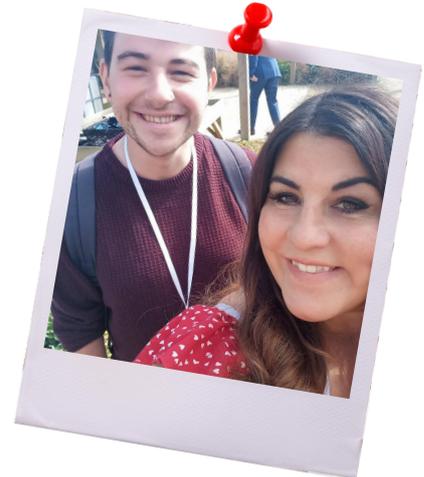
**We're now open for visitors by appointment - find us at 95 Abingdon Street, Blackpool FY1 1PP**



### YOUR GUIDE TO SELF-EMPOWERMENT

Positive Futures (Action for Jobs) is our European Social Funded employability, health and wellbeing programme, where we offer 1:1 bespoke support, guidance and advice to our participants.

Rebecca & Jake - pictured - from Team Positive Futures have been out and about around Blackpool in community spaces, sharing information and letting services and individuals know what we can offer.



Team Positive Futures loves to see people succeed and is dedicated to supporting individuals in recognising their worth, qualities and potential. We're helping our participants find their way forward to employment, self-employment and further training. *Call them employment sherpas, call them further training cheerleaders, call them what you want, just call them!*

Free Positive Futures Drop In Sessions take place twice monthly on Wednesdays at 95 Abingdon Street FY1 1PP - please email us at [positivefutures@blackpoolvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:positivefutures@blackpoolvolunteers.org.uk) or call/whatsapp 07483 041029 for details.



## TRAINING UPDATE

The Volunteer Academy is committed to providing high quality, engaging and accessible training. Thanks to the easing of Covid lockdown restrictions in Autumn 2021, the VA was able to deliver sessions to a growing number of recipients.

Learning to Feed, Better Start Messaging and The Brain Game were delivered to six attendees, with a further ten attendees taking up Safeguarding training. In addition to this, eight individuals registered for Community Champion training, an encouraging sign of renewed optimism for volunteering within the Community in 2022 - watch this space for more training updates!

## Are you a Community Champion?

**Don't miss out! The LAST Community Champion Training of 2021 is happening on 7th December at 12.30 - 2.30pm at our Abingdon Street Centre and YOU can be part of it. Come and join our friendly group of passionate and enthusiastic volunteers. Community Champions are trained and supported to help design local services and ensure that the voice of the community is heard.**

**Email: [Elaine@blackpoolvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:Elaine@blackpoolvolunteers.org.uk) to book your place.**



The Volunteer Academy wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and leaves you with the question -  
**What will you do in 2022?**  
**#Project2022 coming soon...**