

Nightstop Cumbria

Role Description: **Volunteer Driver**

Introduction

Depaul UK manages a range of accommodation for young homeless young people in the UK and Ireland, as well as providing resettlement, pre-employment training and other support services. They aim to give disadvantaged young people the opportunity to fulfill their potential and move towards an independent and positive future. This volunteer role supports the Nightstop Cumbria project.

Project description

Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep and Nightstop Cumbria aims to support young people facing housing crisis by placing them with volunteer hosts while the project workers try to find a solution to their crisis. Nightstop can accommodate young people 7 nights a week, 365 days a year. Referrals are made by housing offices, social workers, colleges and probation officers when they have a young person (aged from 16-25) who has nowhere to sleep for the night. Nightstop Cumbria can provide a safe place for them to stay with a volunteer host – that's someone with a spare room who provides a hot meal, bath and a listening ear. Nightstop aims to prevent young people joining the long-term homeless: like those who have to sleep rough or stay in adult hostels. All sorts of young people can find themselves homeless, and one of the most frequent reasons cited is family or relationship breakdown.

Outline of the volunteer drive role

The volunteer driver meets the young person at a pre-arranged place, drives them to a safe place in a volunteer host's home, introduces them to their host, then calls in to the project to confirm that the young person has arrived safely.

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Main Tasks

- Pick up young person, by arrangement with Nightstop Cumbria project worker;
- Chat to them and put them at ease;
- Drive them to their volunteer host for the night;
- Introduce them to their host, checking their plans for the next day;
- Call Nightstop to confirm the young person has arrived safely;
- Keep records of each journey to claim expenses;
- Attend initial training and access ongoing professional support.

Personal skills, attitudes and knowledge

- Interest in young people;
- Friendly and non-judgmental manner;
- Full current driving licence;
- Use of own car with up-to-date insurance, MOT and road tax;
- A mobile phone;
- Availability for training (including shadowing experienced drivers);
- Time to spare for a few hours a week.

Support and supervision

Before you start you will be police checked as part of the induction and safety procedure. After training and when you are up and running, you will continue to be supported through phone and face to face contact.

- A three hour training and induction session is followed by shadowing an experienced driver for as many occasions as necessary;
- Access to an 'on call' telephone support service is provided during volunteering hours;
- Out of pocket expenses are paid monthly in arrears, including a mileage rate of 40p per mile for journeys undertaken as part of the role;
- Quarterly one to one sessions are available with a member of the Nightstop Cumbria staff team;

- Periodic Nightstop volunteer events provide peer support and informal training opportunities.

Additional Information

Volunteer drivers choose how much time they can give to this rewarding and valuable role (their availability may vary from week to week). Drivers would usually be required between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. Some drop offs take just 20 minutes, others can take an hour.

To ensure the safety of the young people supported by Nightstop, prospective volunteer drivers are always interviewed by project staff and written references are pursued. Applicants are always police checked and must gain enhanced CRB disclosure. Driving license and vehicle documents (insurance, tax, MOT) are always examined and photocopied for Nightstop's records. To ensure the safety of our volunteers before we agree to Nightstop them, we check every young person's references and police record. While we will take those with a criminal record, we always investigate the nature of their offence to ensure your safety and that of our hosts.

Equal Opportunities

Depaul UK, as an organisation with a Vincentian ethos, believes that it is essential to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. The organisation, as both employers and service provider, is committed to opposing discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of their ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, responsibility for children or dependants, age, employment status, disability, HIV status, religious or political beliefs or because of unrelated criminal convictions.

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