

Nightstop Cumbria

Role Description: Nightstop Host

Introduction

Depaul UK offers young homeless people aged 16-25 the opportunity to fulfill their potential and move towards an independent and positive future. Depaul UK manages a range of accommodation for homeless people in the UK and Ireland, as well as providing resettlement, pre-employment training and other support services for homeless and socially disadvantaged people.

Project description

Nightstop Cumbria helps people who are in immediate housing crisis by providing safe accommodation in the homes of volunteers called 'hosts.'

The accommodation is provided one night initially but will be reviewed daily and will last longer in certain circumstances.

We also help people to look at their longer term housing options through by providing them with an experienced project worker to advise and assist them to acquire more permanent accommodation.

Aim of the volunteer role

Volunteer hosts will provide a room in their home for a young homeless person to stay in overnight as a safe alternative to sleeping on the streets.

Main Tasks

- To provide clean, safe, basic overnight accommodation to the young homeless person;
- To provide breakfast and an evening meal for the person using the accommodation;
- To liaise with the Nightstop project team regarding their availability and to provide regular feedback after every placement;

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- To attend periodic reviews and meetings with Nightstop project staff;
- To attend initial training programme prior to undertaking role (see below);
- To attend periodic training during the course of the role.

Necessary skills, attitudes and knowledge

- A basic understanding of homeless peoples issues;
- An ability to relate to people on a one to one, non judgmental basis;
- A desire to work with disadvantaged people;
- A spare room available for use by a person referred by the scheme at short notice;
- A willingness to participate in training and be involved in consultation regarding the role.

Support and supervision

- There will be periodic volunteer support groups for Nightstop hosts that provide peer support and informal training opportunities;
- All hosts will be provided with telephone support and debriefing after every placement;
- There will be regular home visits from project staff;
- A 24hr on call system is in operation to allow access to advice and guidance for hosts;
- A monthly newsletter circulated to keep all hosts informed of project developments and news.

Induction and training

- Depaul UK offers Nightstop hosts a 4 module training programme which will be delivered at times best suited to the needs of the host. The training includes the following subjects: The role of a host, health and safety issues, protection and confidentiality, boundaries, effective communication and support for hosts;
- All training is interactive and delivered by experienced and committed staff;

- There is additional training available externally if necessary in relation to more specific issues and all volunteers are actively encouraged to engage in DepaulUK's volunteering support groups where guest speakers will deliver presentations and training sessions on relevant subject.

Benefits to the Volunteer

- All genuine out-of-pocket expenses reimbursed;
- While working at the project volunteers have full liability insurance cover;
- There are appreciation events to recognise the important contribution that volunteers make;
- Personal and professional development through training and support;
- References for hosts will be available after a period of three months volunteering;
- Contribute to a project that really does make a difference to the lives of people;
- Making a difference to your local community.

Equal Opportunities

The Depaul UK, as an organisation with a Vincentian ethos, believes that it is essential to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. The Trust, 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.

All applicants will be subject to the successful completion of an enhanced CRB disclosure, an informal interview, a home visit and reference checks prior to being offered the role of Nightstop Host.

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