



Essential Requirements

Counselling Volunteer Programme

Aims and Objectives of the Counselling Service

To provide a Specialist Therapeutic Counselling Service to women who have been affected by domestic violence.

To offer a completely free service to women, so they can access it without unreasonable delay.

To work in a predominantly person centred way in order to empower women to regain control over their own lives.

To create a safe confidential space for women to work through any difficulties they may be experiencing.

To provide a positive, non judgemental service that is client led.

Essential Requirements for Volunteer Counsellors

A good understanding and sensitivity around the issues faced by women who are living with, fleeing from, or recovering from domestic violence.

To have completed the initial stages of counselling training and to be either in the final year of a recognised counselling diploma (or equivalent) or be qualified to diploma level.

To have an understanding of person centred working and be able apply the core conditions to this client group.

To have flexibility in terms of times available. You need to be available to see approx 3 clients per week usually during school hours (sometimes later) and take responsibility to manage your own caseload. Additionally, you must be able to commit to attending supervision every 2 weeks.

To be able to comply with SWA's policies regarding confidentiality and general conditions of service and implement and uphold SWA's policy on child protection.

An awareness of the needs of women from a range of cultures, class backgrounds, sexuality and religious beliefs

Conditions of Service for Counselling Volunteers

You are required to comply with all our policies and procedures including Health and Safety at Work Legislation, Equal Opportunities and Confidentiality and Boundaries.

We provide training for volunteers, which consist of an initial induction programme which tells you about our organisation.

You can also attend SWA's own on-going training programme where it is relevant to your role.

All counselling volunteers will have fortnightly supervision with their supervisor. This will provide an opportunity for both the volunteer and supervisor to discuss their progress and any issues that need addressing. Counselling supervision is a mixture of both individual and group.

You will be paid volunteer's expenses, which covers your (public transport) travel and lunch if you are working 4 hours or more over the lunch period to a maximum of £3.50.

A Criminal Record Disclosure will be requested from all volunteers who work directly with clients.

A declaration of health forms needs to be filled out by everyone in contact with young children. This is requested by OFSTED.

Insurance: You are covered by our insurance, in terms of liability.

What happens next?

If we are actively recruiting and you fit with all the essential requirements for the post we will contact you to arrange a date for an informal interview. If you don't hear from us it may be that there is no current vacancy, if this is the case we will contact you in the future, as and when an opportunity arises. We may not always contact everyone who applies if they do not fit the criteria.