



Caring in Bristol

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE 365 DAYS A YEAR

Youth Practitioner (full-time @ 37.5 hours per week)

Job Description

Salary: £ 22,300 - £26,548 Band B (pro rata)

Leave: 33 days (inclusive of bank holidays) (pro rata)

We offer: Flexible working; workplace pension

Responsible to: Assistant Director

Location: Bristol

Aims and Objectives of the role:

We are Caring in Bristol. We are a local charity, with a mission to solve homelessness in our city. From prevention to emergency support, we work together with our community to create innovative projects that support people, of all ages, at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. From producing free citywide resources that empower our city to act, to investing in youth support, helping influence change from the very start, we're committed to creating a city empowered to solve homelessness.

As a Youth Practitioner you will play a crucial role in building both short-term and longer term relationships of trust with 16 – 25 year olds, to help prevent youth homelessness in Bristol via our Bristol Nightstop Project and The Common.

In this varied and dynamic role, you will support both the day-to-day operation of Bristol Nightstop, including recruiting, training and managing Nightstop volunteer hosts and supporting young people in housing crisis into a safe temporary place to stay, but also **longer term relational work** with young people who may not meet the thresholds of others services but need support to navigate gaps between other services, both one-to-one and via our drop-in, The Common.

This role will cover a flexible range of key working options, to ensure that the young people we work with receive excellent support and a safe place to stay, if appropriate to their needs. You will work across the city, and be based at two locations (our head office in Temple Way and the 1625ip MAPS office in Nelson Street) Our Nightstop project operates 365 days a year, and on occasions will require some evening working. You will be expected to participate in an on-call rota for this project, and other charity projects as appropriate.

You will have the ability to work effectively with young people who may be experiencing a crisis in their lives and know how to give them the help and support they need to find solutions in often incredibly challenging circumstances.

Crucially, you will believe in the power of building positive relationships with young people in order to build trust and experience a sense of hope.

This role will work closely with other charity staff, particularly colleagues in fundraising, grants and communications and marketing, to ensure we develop our work sustainably and the needs of our beneficiaries are at the heart of what we do.

We are committed to increasing diversity of staff within Caring in Bristol and within the Charity Sector as a whole. We especially welcome applications from people with lived experience of homelessness. Black, Asian and ethnic minority candidates are particularly encouraged to apply for this role. We welcome applications from everyone who meets the requirements of the Person Specification. We encourage applications from all gender identities and sexual orientations; we are committed to equal opportunity, equal treatment and respect for every individual. If you have special access requirements, please do let us know.

Our commitment to you

We offer, and value, flexible working. As a charity we are proud to be committed to mental health awareness and to actively supporting the wellbeing of the team.

Location

The role will be predominantly based in our main office: 1 Temple Way, Bristol BS2 0BY) but also in devolved locations across the city.

Key Responsibilities

1. [Bristol Nightstop] Supporting young people to return home or seek and find alternative, safe accommodation, including making risk-assessed referrals to emergency accommodation;
2. [Bristol Nightstop] Assisting with the recruitment and management of Nightstop volunteer hosts, ensuring that they receive the necessary training and support to provide safe and nurturing short-term placements for young people in crisis;
3. [The Common] Working from a relationship-led practice model, you will support young people to navigate often complicated barriers in their lives (for example homelessness, social isolation, poverty, family estrangement, lack of hope for the future) and link them in with a diverse range of other organisations in the city, depending on their needs and interests;
4. [The Common] Developing new, drop-in space(s) for young people, and helping to transform them into places of warmth, welcome, creativity and good humour;
5. Providing out of hours on-call support on a rota basis;

6. Working as part of a broader charity team to maximise fundraising, marketing and development opportunities.

Project delivery and practice

- Supporting young people to return home or seek and find alternative, safe accommodation;
- Giving independent advice and guidance about family, housing and accommodation issues;
- Referring to hosts or other accommodation options;
- Risk assessing young people and emergency accommodation placements with host families;
- Work with a case load of young people on a longer-term relationship-led practice model;
- Facilitate creative drop-in spaces for young people;

Development and partnership working

- Working to build collaborative networks with key organisations in Bristol so that young people who use our youth services are supported to access other specialist support;
- Contribute to sharing best practice with other organisations in the sector; proactive in learning from others/other organisations;
- Promoting our youth work projects in various settings;
- Participating in advisory board meetings where appropriate;
- Work to develop the service in an innovative and responsive way, which will help us to reach young people who hard to engage and most at risk;
- Contribute to the creation of a strong values base for the project, with a belief in the power of relationship-led practice.
- Maximise fundraising and marketing opportunities, working alongside colleagues from different teams.

Reporting:

- To report on progress and developments to the Assistant Director in a timely manner and a format as agreed;

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Supporting the Assistant Director with evidencing, monitoring and evaluation of our work, and establishing a culture of learning through doing;
- To keep accurate records of young people's data as appropriate, including measuring their progress and development

Volunteer Management:

- Recruitment, support and training of volunteer hosts and youth ambassadors, and general volunteers that can support our work;
- Managing host and volunteer availability and commitment, and arrangements around expenses;

Other Responsibilities:

- To follow Caring in Bristol policies and procedures and observe our Code of Conduct;
- To actively participate in and attend supervisions, annual appraisal processes and identified training;
- To effectively embody the culture and values of the Charity.
- Promote the aims and objectives of the Charity and present a positive image of it through good public relations, communications with visitors, young people, guests, people who use our services and the local community.

