

Simon Community

Part-time Volunteer Role Description

The Simon Community

The Simon Community provides a range of services to homeless people, including shared supported housing in two properties in Kentish Town, extensive outreach with street homeless people (tea runs, soup runs, street cafes, clothes distribution and street work), hospitality for homeless people at our House in Kentish Town and support to people in the wider community who have experienced homelessness and/or are experiencing difficulty maintaining their tenancies.

The Simon Community aims to establish positive, respectful relationships with all homeless people, so that, if a homeless person needs advice and/or support, they will feel able to approach the Community; thus it is essential that all services are delivered in line with the Simon Community ethos and further our objectives of building respectful relationships.

Purpose of the Role

The part-time volunteer role is to work as part of the team with other volunteers (both full and part time), residents and staff to ensure that all services are delivered effectively, within the Simon Community ethos and in line with the values and policies of the Simon Community.

Main tasks and responsibilities

Delivering services

Each week a rota is prepared and part-time volunteers are invited to fill place/s on the rota, as part of a mini-team to deliver particular services; this may involve food preparation, clearing up, cleaning, shopping, group-work, spending social time with residents, developing the houses as comfortable, homely places, distributing food and drink, driving, or delivering outreach services (soup run, tea run, Street Café, street work).

Currently, three times a week, our House in Kentish Town is open for homeless people, offering companionship, use of laundry and shower facilities, a hot meal, use of computers, and a refuge from the street. Part-time volunteers role during hospitality is to ensure smooth running and to provide a listening ear and support for homeless people as required.

Support to people in the Community

In addition to services within our Houses and outreach, Simon provides support to people who are part of our Simon “family” and/or who may have difficulty maintaining their tenancies; so in some cases these are ex-residents of Simon houses. Some part-time volunteers visit people in their homes, providing practical support and companionship as necessary.

Group work

Within the houses, the Community uses group-work to enable people to work together to learn/re-learn the emotional and practical skills for living. The Community works through a series of meetings, including Breakfast Meetings, House Meetings and Community Meetings; part-time volunteers are invited to Community Meetings, which are held twice a month. IF you volunteer at St Josephs, to help with the running of the House (but not if you are there for outreach work preparation) you are also invited to the Breakfast Meeting. Meetings are the essential forums for reviewing all activities and for planning for the future.

Team work and learning

All volunteers are part of a team which includes residents as well as paid staff. The Community is currently exploring how best to provide on-going information and support to part-time volunteers.

Access

Neither of our premises in Kentish Town is accessible to wheelchair users (both have steps up/down from the street to gain access); if you have mobility difficulties please contact us to discuss your needs.

July 2010

The Simon Community

Part-time Volunteer skills, abilities and knowledge required

1. The ability to listen and to understand people who often have difficulty in communicating
2. An open non-judgmental approach to people and their situations
3. Skills to empathise with people
4. Ability to build and maintain bounded relationships with people whose behaviour can be challenging
5. Flexibility and the ability to work as a part of a team
6. Belief in the potential in everyone
7. A willingness to learn from others
8. Ability to speak clearly in English.
9. Willingness to work within the Simon Community ethos, philosophy and practice and equalities policy
10. Aged 19 or over.
11. Ability to Drive with a clean UK license and willingness to drive the minibus is highly desirable
12. Patience, humility and a sense of humour are unquantifiable but great assets
13. For some roles, e.g. cooking, prior experience/knowledge is essential.