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**Housing First Volunteer**

**Part Time 4 – 8 hours per week**

**Scottish Borders**

**(Various Locations in the Community)**

**Overview**

Housing First is a model of social housing which provides high level support to individuals who have been identified as likely to have difficulty sustaining their own tenancy.

Housing First provides ordinary, settled housing as the first response for people with multiple and complex needs beyond Housing.

By sustaining a permanent tenancy individuals are in a better position to access community support, healthcare and social benefits.

Individuals are not required to be abstinent and the model focuses on a harm reduction approach.

This role sits alongside paid staff in the team and assists with the operation of Housing First, providing emotional and practical support.

**Why we need you and what activities are involved?**

Volunteers can support our clients of Housing First in the local community and can work one-to-one or in groups. In addition, volunteers help with the smooth running of our service so that our clients receive the best possible care.

The range of roles will be communicated by the Housing First Employees and will most likely include:

* Welcome and befriend: be a friendly face and make people feel safe and supported through out their journey with Housing First.
* Learning and skills: support our clients to develop core skills that will help them on their journeys out of homelessness – with a focus on finance, digital inclusion, employment, mental and physical health and improving their education.
* Activities support: support clients’ health and wellbeing. This could include wellbeing walks, arts and crafts activities and gardening in our allotment.
* Supporting clients in the home: help clients decorate, furnish homes and settle into their local community, in conjunction with their Housing First Workers
* Office support: help the team with administration, communications, event planning and organisation so that they can deliver the best experience for , staff, and partners.

Volunteers add huge value to teams who are supporting clients directly. They bring empathy, compassion and a wide range of skills, experience, and knowledge.

**What kind of volunteer are we looking for?**

* Confident in working outdoors in all weathers.
* Ability to work as part of a team.
* Sympathetic to the needs of people who have experience of mental ill health, disability, homelessness, social isolation, drug and alcohol misuse.
* Commitment to adhere to Cyrenians policies and procedures.
* Commitment to operating within Cyrenians’ core values and ethos.
* Demonstrate a hopeful and positive attitude.
* Reliability.

**Essential**

* 18+
* PVG scheme membership required.
* Able to commit to a minimum period of 12 weeks in the role.

**Desirable**

* Good listening skills
* Friendly and approachable personality
* Reliable with good time keeping
* Able to work with individuals who may have different support needs
* Non-judgmental
* Respectful of confidentiality

**What can you gain from this opportunity?**

* The rewarding experience of helping someone improve their quality of life, health, and sense of wellbeing.
* Develop empathy and listening skills.
* Meet new people and have new experiences.
* Learning horticultural and craft skills.
* Personal development with training and ongoing support provided.

**Further Info**

**Expenses**

We cover local travel costs at public transport rate or mileage, and £2.50 or a meal if volunteering over 4 hours at one time.

**About Cyrenians**

Cyrenians is over 50 years old. We began with the creation of an innovative community to meet the needs of a group of homeless people who had fallen through the cracks of whatever support was available at the time. Our roots lie in responding to the injustice of homelessness.

We have spent the last five decades journeying with people grappling with the causes and consequences of homelessness through building and nurturing of trusted relationships and engaging with social exclusion and inequality which has so often been at the root of their tough reality. We are values-led and relationship based; our core values are Compassion, Respect, Integrity and Innovation.

Cyrenians’ head office is based in Edinburgh, with smaller offices in other areas, including Falkirk and West Lothian. Cyrenians is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered charity SC011052.