

## **SAFER LIVING FOUNDATION** **VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION**

The Safer Living Foundation are looking for volunteers from all walks of life and various backgrounds. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

### **CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CoSA):**

The primary aim of CoSA is to prevent further sexual abuse, working with the objective of 'no more victims'. CoSA is a simple, successful community concept by which a group of 3-5 specially recruited and trained volunteers form a Circle around an individual who has committed a sexual offence (known as the Core Member) living in or due to be released into the community.

A Circle meets weekly and offers social, emotional and practical support to the Core Member as well as requiring them to take responsibility (be accountable) for their ongoing risk management. The concept seeks to support the reintegration and rehabilitation of individuals who are often socially isolated and marginalised. The Circle works in close partnership with the statutory agencies and is managed by a trained professional known as the Circle Coordinator.

Circle meetings are usually held in either Nottingham or Derby city centres.

The Safer Living Foundation are currently running a number of different models of CoSA and there are volunteer opportunities available for all models:

**Prison-based CoSA** – Working with an adult at HMP Whatton for up to 3 months prior to their release and then continuing to support them once released into the community for approximately 12 months.

**Community-based CoSA** – Working with someone who has already been released from custody and is currently residing in either Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. The Circle will run for approximately 12 months.

**Young People's CoSA** – Working with a young person (ages 10 to 18) who has problematic sexual behaviour. Volunteers will be expected to work creatively with the young person to build on their strengths, interests and hobbies. The Circle will run for approximately 12 months.

### **THE APOLLO PROJECT**

A specially designed intervention working with a young person (ages 10 to 18) who has problematic sexual behaviour. A group of 3 volunteers will meet weekly to offer social support and structured coaching to the young person. The aim is to help them develop the skills to live a rich, healthy life focussed on their values and free from offending. The Apollo group will run for approximately 12 months.

## **SLF VOLUNTEER KEY QUALITIES**

- Motivated – a commitment to working together to prevent further crime.
- Open minded with a strong commitment to work without prejudice with all people regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability or social background.
- Good common sense and realistic expectations.
- Good boundaries and self-awareness.
- Empathetic and emotionally resilient.
- Ability to take feedback well and be willing to listen to advice and the views of others.
- Confident, with good communication skills and an ability to engage well with people from all walks of life.
- Maturity, patience and the ability to remain calm.
- Trustworthy and a firm commitment to confidentiality.

## **SLF VOLUNTEER PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Having successfully completed the training and been accepted as a volunteer, individuals will be asked to undertake the following tasks:

- To sit as one of the 3-5 community volunteers on a Circle of Support and Accountability or one of the 3 volunteer facilitators on an Apollo group.
- To contribute to the overall aim of preventing further victims of sexual abuse by supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of someone who has been convicted of a sexual offence or shown other sexually harmful behaviour.
- Where allocated to a Circle: to find ways to help a Core Member reintegrate back into the community – this may include help finding employment, help with independent living skills, help accessing community activities, help finding appropriate housing, help with benefits etc.
- Where allocated to an Apollo group: to provide social support and coaching to a young person in line with the Apollo intervention model.
- To attend all initial training and ongoing sessions as required.
- To attend regular group supervision and individual supervision as and when agreed with the Safer Living Foundation.
- To work at all times according to the Safer Living Foundation's Confidentiality Statement.
- To take turns with the other volunteers in writing minutes after every meeting and forwarding these to the coordinator.
- To take turns with the other volunteers in having an SLF supplied mobile phone so the service user can have contact with his support if he requires it (either call or text) for a set period of time (usually 1 hr per day) from Monday to Friday only. This time slot to be determined by the volunteer holding the phone to suit their availability and agreed through supervision.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

This is a volunteer role and is not deemed to have employment status with the Safer Living Foundation. Volunteers will be able to claim for all reasonable expenses incurred in line with the Volunteer Expenses Policy. Volunteers will undertake duties as and when agreed with representatives of the Safer Living Foundation.

Due to the nature of this volunteering role, it will be necessary for an enhanced DBS check. Therefore it will be essential when making your application you disclose whether you have any pending charges, convictions, bind-overs, cautions reprimands or final warnings. You will be expected to give details of all convictions, whether spent or unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. A criminal conviction will not automatically disqualify you; it will depend on the seriousness and the circumstances. This will be discussed at the interview.