

Role Description – Home-Start WKCHF Volunteer

Supporting families across Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham

A Home-Start Volunteer offers regular support, friendship and practical help to families with young children who are experiencing difficulties, helping to prevent family crisis or breakdown.

Role of a Home-Start Volunteer

Home-Start volunteers are expected to work towards the increased confidence and independence of the family by:

- offering support, friendship and practical help
- visiting the families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of everyone can be respected and protected
- reassuring families that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual, emphasizing the positive aspects of family life
- developing a relationship with the family in which time can be shared and an understanding developed
- encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their own children
- encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to effectively use the support and services available in the community

Responsible to:

The Home-Start Family Support Coordinator

Level of Commitment:

- Initial course of preparation, normally lasting 24 hours over a number of weeks
- Two hours supporting a family per week
- Receiving regular support/supervision with Home-Start Coordinator
- A minimum commitment of 12 months

Once we have received your initial application, we will invite you in for an interview.

Before supporting a family, you will need to complete the Volunteer Preparation Course.

A DBS and reference check are also requirements for this role.

Person Specification for a Home-Start WKCHF Volunteer

A volunteer should:

- be a parent or have had experience working with children
- have a positive attitude to working with people of any gender, family status or sexual identity, or who are from any ethnic origin, culture or religion, or who may have a disability
- demonstrate a sensitive and caring attitude towards others
- have a non-judgmental attitude
- be clear about confidentiality and when a confidence remains so, but be able to decide when disclosure of a confidence is essential to the well-being of a child
- be reliable and understand the importance of reliability to the family
- have good communication skills including an ability to listen
- understand the need for support
- have a warm and open personality and a sense of humour
- have time and enthusiasm for Home-Start
- be willing and able to attend volunteer training and support group meetings
- be able to work as a member of a team
- be prepared to keep records as requested by the scheme.

This is exciting and rewarding voluntary experience, which requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and a sense of humour. There are also opportunities for training, peer support, self-development, and social contact with other Home-Start Westminster volunteers.



Home-Start Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham

Registered Charity No. 1109568

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