

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF JOB: Female Support Worker

REFERENCE: SWWS25/Feb25

LOCATION: Worthing

SERVICE/HOUSE: Stopover Supported Housing

HOURS PER WEEK: 25 hours per week

TEMPORARY/PERMANENT: Permanent contract

SALARY: Starts at Band 3, Scale Point 13 - £26,726 per annum pro rata (i.e. final salary will be £18,058), paid monthly by automated credit transfer on 25th of the month.

HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT: 27 days pro rata + 3 extra days at Christmas and the usual statutory holidays.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Monday, 3rd February 2025

INTERVIEWS: During week commencing Monday, 10th February 2025

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Head of Supported Housing

LINE MANAGED BY: Service Manager

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Being part of a small team providing accommodation with trauma informed support to young women aged 16 to 25 during their transition between dependence and independence.

FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT ABOUT THE POST: Please contact Stevie Graves on 01273 603775 or stevie.graves@impact-initiatives.org.uk.

This post is open to female applicants only as being female is deemed to be a genuine occupational requirement under Schedule 9, Paragraph 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974) and the successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

BACKGROUND & AIMS OF IMPACT INITIATIVES

Providing a voice, hope and change for Sussex people in need.

Impact Initiatives was founded in 1978 to resolve the social issues that Brighton and Hove communities were facing at the time. Our founders were a diverse collection of individuals who cared enough about community issues to come together and act against the injustices they saw on their doorstep. Over the years Impact has grown and evolved as an organisation but what has never changed, is that we continue to provide a voice, hope and change for the people who need it most.

Today our services work tirelessly to support, champion and inspire children, young people, adults with disabilities and older people. Ultimately, we believe that everybody should have the opportunity to be the best they can be. Our vision is for Sussex people of all ages to reach their potential, living healthy and fulfilling lives.

Impact's model of having a Central Team - who provide expertise in finance, HR, IT and facilities, health and safety, and business development - ensures each of our specialist teams can focus on excellence in individual service delivery and development. We employ around 100 staff who are supported by a team of volunteers and currently work with over 10,000 people each year.

Stopover provides a unique, women only supported housing in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. Accommodation is provided across 10 houses, detailed below.

Stopover 1 provides supported housing for nine homeless or insecurely housed young women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five for up to two years. During this time, they are encouraged to develop the skills and confidence they will need to live independently and sustain a tenancy. The young women are expected to live within the house rules, attend key work sessions and complete the in-house life skills training before they are referred for move-on accommodation. The house offers intensive support; staffed twenty-four hours as a reflection of the clients whose needs arise from a history of negative and damaging relationships including abuse and domestic violence as well as mental health issues, behavioural issues, and substance misuse. The role of the Support Worker is to provide a consistent positive professional relationship that will allow the young women to start to trust, open up and address the issues in their past. As a result of presenting support needs there are times when the young women can challenge us, and an understanding of their previous chaotic lifestyles is essential in this role. Support Workers work as part of a rota system including cover over night and at weekends. All staff hold a caseload of clients within the house.

Stopover 2 provides supported accommodation for nine young women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five (under eighteen in agreed circumstances only) who have usually previously completed a successful stay in a house with higher support. Young women accommodated here will be expected to have completed a recognised life skills course and will be meaningfully occupied. The house offers low to medium support and is staffed during office hours. There is an out-of-hours on-call system in case of emergency. Support Workers work as part of a rota system and will hold a caseload of clients within the house.

Both Stopover 1 and 2 receive funding from Brighton and Hove City Council to provide housing related support to the young women living in the services.

Stopover 3 to 11 provide shared accommodation for young women in houses that are the final step before moving to live independently.

MAIN TASKS:

- 1.** To work as part of a team providing tailored support to young women with support needs which stem from a history of chaos and trauma and include sexual and physical abuse, mental health issues, substance misuse and offending.
- 2.** To ensure that the young women accommodated understand and abide by the terms and conditions of the Occupancy Agreement.
- 3.** To be a part of the rota, which includes weekend shifts (Support Workers will be expected to work every other weekend) and to provide on-call support.
- 4.** To work in a key worker role with identified young women, to meet them regularly, to work with them in drawing up a support plan and to monitor and review the plan regularly in line with Stopover policy.
- 5.** To work in a trauma informed way with an understanding of the need for long-term and consistent positive relationships.
- 6.** To provide a bespoke support package to each young woman including referral to external specialist services where appropriate including in response to identified support needs e.g. sexual and physical abuse, mental health issues, substance misuse and offending.
- 7.** To monitor income benefits, ensuring that benefits are maximized and remain in payment. To notify the Service Manager where problems occur.
- 8.** To support young women towards meaningful occupation either in education, training or employment.
- 9.** To provide information and support relating to personal and emotional matters (e.g. health, contraception, drugs/alcohol, relationships, mental health, pregnancy, substance misuse, self-harm) within the context of individual and group work with young women.
- 10.** To co-facilitate the life skills course.
- 11.** To support volunteers in the delivery of a social program within the houses including planning and supervision of volunteers as appropriate.
- 12.** To assist young women in identifying and acquiring appropriate move-on accommodation.

13. To keep accurate records and maintain effective communication on all aspects of work by using Stopover's systems for record keeping, monitoring and communicating with colleagues.
14. To operate within the house's clear framework of confidentiality at all times.
15. To participate in regular residents' house meetings.
16. To work within the house and organisational policies and procedures.
17. To attend regular supervision sessions and team meetings, including the annual Impact Day.
18. To attend training events as relevant to your post.
19. To work with senior team members to gain support and ensure personal wellbeing including engaging in one–one supervision sessions and restorative circles
20. To undertake any other duties, as appropriate to the character of this work and as requested by management, as reasonably required.

Supplementary information:

This job description is subject to change in line with the requirements of the organisation. Impact Initiatives operates a no-smoking policy. This post is subject to a 6-month probationary period. All posts within Impact Initiatives have the opportunity of an annual review and evaluation.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable	How Tested
Experience	<p>Experience of working with young women or young people and an understanding of the needs of this client group.</p> <p>Experience of working in a supported housing/residential setting or similar environment.</p> <p>Experience of working within an office environment using administrative systems, computers, word processing and an ability to keep accurate up to date case files.</p> <p>Experience of lone working shift cover as well as effective team working.</p>	<p>Experience of planning and facilitating groups</p>	<p>Application Form</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>References</p>
Knowledge & Skills	<p>An understanding of Trauma Informed Care and psychologically informed environments</p> <p>Ability to deal with a range of resident issues and to manage challenging behavior.</p> <p>Understanding of the support planning/key work system within a supported housing/residential environment and how to undertake appropriate risk assessments.</p> <p>Ability to communicate at all levels.</p> <p>An understanding of key policies and procedures in supported housing and an ability to work within these.</p>	<p>Knowledge of external support available to young women in need.</p> <p>Knowledge of the benefits system.</p> <p>Knowledge of housing legislation.</p>	<p>Application Form</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>References</p>
Other	<p>A commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for young women in need of support</p> <p>A proven resilience while working in a potentially stressful environment</p>	<p>Awareness of homelessness issues and the routes by which homeless people may access accommodation.</p>	<p>Application Form</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>References</p>
Training & Qualifications		<p>Housing or Youth Work Qualification.</p>	