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**SUPPORT WORKER: CASUA/RELIEF**

**YOUR PLACE OF WORK: BCM SUPPORTED HOUSING PROJECTS (BELFAST/ BANGOR/DUNGANNON/MAGHERAFELT**

**SUPPORTED HOUSING SERVICE**

You have applied to work as a **Support Worker** in our Supported Housing Service. Our supported housing service works with young people from 16-21 years of age and they can stay with us for up to two years.

The young people will live in flats/shared accommodation and your job is to help them to prepare to live more independently in the community when they leave **the project.**

**So, what will you be doing?**

Each young person will have a support plan and your job is to work through this plan to ensure that they obtain the help and support they require to meet their goals. So, you will be:

* **Going shopping:** helping the young person to buy essentials in terms of food or clothing – this helps them to be able to do it on their own when living more independently.
* **Budgeting:** Helping the young people with practical advice and guidance so that they use limited money wisely.
* **Education, training or Employment:** you will work with external organisations to support our young people who may be at school, training or in employment (or not engaged in any of these), so it’s about making sure they are up on time, that they attend work, class or training, or advocating when they are experiencing difficulties and helping them to find something that they enjoy that will help them to reach their goals.
* **Cooking:** you will assist the young people in basic cooking so that they can understand basic food hygiene, safe storage and preparation of food when they leave.
* **Cleaning:** you will assist the young people in cleaning and tidying their flat so that this builds up a routine and they can keep this going when they leave. As a team member, you will also be responsible for maintaining communal areas within your place of work, in a neat and tidy manner.
* **Advocating:** you will help the young people to obtain benefits and other entitlements; you will also work with Social Workers, representatives from the Health Trusts, Housing Executive and other external organisations in order to support the young people; you may also attend various appointments with the young people.
* **Records:** you will complete daily contact sheets, reports on significant incidents and, maintain the young person’s file to ensure compliance with agency and regulatory requirements.
* **Key working:** you will provide emotional support;listening to the young people in order to provide the necessary help which may include interventions for the young people and / or include signposting them to other services to ensure they get they help they need.
* **Support Planning:** working through a support plan to help the young people meet their needs, reach their potential, help in assessing risk, and work towards a positive outcome.

**THE YOUNG PEOPLE**

The young people may present very complex needs and may be challenging; some young people may have problems with drugs, alcohol or they may have been in trouble with the police. Additionally, some young people may arrive at **our projects** with a complex history which can include self-harm, trauma, isolation, poverty, difficulty in forming relationships / trust.

**WHAT WE NEED**

We want staff who are compassionate, have a high degree of empathy and are respectful to everyone. We also want our staff to be resilient and be able to cope with the many challenges which are presented; at times we’ll need our staff to be firm in terms of following the correct procedures within their workplace and to maintain professional boundaries in terms of work colleagues and young people.

As a Support Worker, you will be assisting the young people in your care to cope with significant change; the changes associated with adulthood; making their own decisions; housing needs; health; hygiene. This is not a job for everyone, so we only want staff who are committed, have a genuine interest in this area of work and are keen to make a difference.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION – SUPPORT WORKER**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **EXPERIENCE** | 1-years’ experience of supporting groups and / or individuals | 1-years’ experience of supporting young people / adolescents |
| **QUALIFICATIONS** | GCSE / O’LEVEL English Language at grade C or above or equivalent (eg) Essential Skills level 2 |  |
| **SKILLS** |  | Working knowledge of using Microsoft Word; Outlook |
| **TRANSPORT** |  | Possess full UK (clean) driving license with access to a car |

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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| **Duration:** | Casual/Relief |
| **Hours or work:** | Casual/Relief, as and when required |
| **Salary:** | £8.20- £10.82 depending on age, shift and location  |
| **Access NI:** | This post requires that a check must be carried out under the requirements off Access NI Enhanced Disclosure. This will involve, a full criminal records check, which will show spent and unspent convictions, cautions, cases pending and any other relevant information. |
| **NISCC Registration** | All Social Care Staff must acquire & retain (annually) registration with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council |