



METRO Essex Volunteer HIV Counsellor ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Summary

METRO is looking for dedicated Volunteer Counsellors to provide emotional support to people living with, and affected by, HIV across Essex. METRO's counselling service is free and clients are offered eight sessions with a possibility of more sessions if appropriate.

We recruit practitioners from various theoretical school. However, our approach to counselling and psychotherapy is integrative with the client held as central to all counselling work and service development.

Training

All Volunteer Counsellors will receive an initial induction session before starting any counselling. The induction focuses on a general introduction and orientation to METRO. In addition to the induction programme further training workshops are provided at which attendance is optional. All Volunteer Counsellors are required to complete online training modules in Information Governance

Volunteer Counsellors receive regular supervision, but you may need to supplement this, depending on your client load and course requirements, by arranging additional supervision.

Commitment

You must be able to provide a minimum of two client hours per week, and you must be able to commit to volunteering with METRO for a minimum of two years. It is essential that you attend the induction programme, information governance training, and any other training for which the need arises during your time with METRO.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Every volunteer role we advertise is based on a person specification which describes the skills, experience and qualifications we need you to have. Please look at this carefully so that you know the range of expertise required.

Qualifications and experience	Knowledge, skills and abilities	Essential or desirable
Counselling and/or psychotherapy qualification at a diploma level or above; or be currently in your 2 nd year (or further) of a diploma level (or higher) BACP accredited/UKCP approved course and have substantial and relevant previous experience of providing emotional support		Essential
Previous experience of providing support services or an understanding of some of the needs of people living with HIV		Desirable
Experience of operating clear and effective boundaries within all areas of work		Essential
Currently engaged in personal therapy, or if qualified, must have considerable previous experience of receiving personal counselling or therapy and currently undertaking ongoing personal development work		Essential
	Able to maintain an ethical and professional level of conduct at all times	Essential
	Able to provide short and long term counselling	Essential
	Able to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, and able to show good interpersonal skills	Essential
	Understand and able to give peer support	Essential
	Able to work in a culturally sensitive way	Essential

	Able to work as part of a team	Essential
	Willingness to understand and support the overall work of METRO	Essential
	Willingness to adhere to, and take responsibility for implementing, all necessary policies and procedures that apply to the counselling of clients and METRO as a whole	Essential
	An understanding of the importance of child protection and confidentiality as it relates to this post and the overall work of METRO	Essential