

THE HAVEN Pregnancy Counselling Centre

Charity No. 1094932

Title of opportunity

Volunteer Schools Worker (Presenter or Assistant)

Vision and Purpose of Role

Each year The Haven Schools Work Team delivers our multimedia interactive lesson to hundreds of students in years 9 and 10 (aged 14-15) as part of the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum. These have been well received by the schools who invite us back year after year.

The purpose of the lesson is to encourage the young people to think about the issues and statistics surrounding unplanned pregnancies; the options available in the event of an unintended pregnancy; and to raise awareness of the support available at The Haven for those facing an unplanned pregnancy, as well as for those struggling following an abortion or pregnancy loss.

The lesson includes the 'Lifeline Game' which highlights the development of the foetus in the womb; students participate in the game and at the end are invited to consider when they think life begins. We also show some film clips, and then encourage the students to discuss in smaller groups the positives and negatives of the three options available with an unplanned pregnancy; parenting, abortion and adoption.

We ensure that we work within the limits of the school's ethos and are non-directive in our approach, encouraging the students to think for themselves.

Our volunteers work in pairs. One person will usually present and lead the lesson, while the other assists by handling the PowerPoint slides. Both take an active role in encouraging and supporting the small group discussions.

Main Activities and Responsibilities

A Volunteer Schools Worker is expected to:

- Be available to help during school hours in the Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath area as required
- Be punctual and professional in all dealings with the school
- Have a concern for young people and for the issues around unplanned pregnancy, while being non-directive and non-judgemental
- Respect the school's ethos and the limitations of the role
- Follow the policies and guidelines of The Haven at all times, remembering that they are representing the charity
- Record any relevant data post school visits, as required
- Liaise, as necessary, with other volunteers, centre staff or Trustees to ensure professional practices at all times.
- Attend training/teambuilding sessions as required

Character and skills

- A heart for the interests and well-being of young teenagers
- A non-judgmental, empathetic attitude
- A patient, flexible, friendly manner; comfortable with teenagers
- Active listening skills, and an ability to ask questions that will stimulate and encourage discussion
- Willingness to receive training and feedback
- Sympathetic with the ethos, values and practices of the Christian faith (because of The Haven's Christian foundation)
- Some technical know-how is desirable, especially for assistants
- Good presentation skills are required for presenters
- Previous experience of working in schools is desirable, but not necessary

Benefits

Opportunity to receive training and develop new skills

Opportunity to network with other volunteers at The Haven and across the area

Opportunity to have a significant impact on the lives of local young people

Support

The Schools Work Team Leaders and Centre Manager will provide training and support as needed

Requirements

You will be asked to provide the names of TWO referees, one of which could be your Church leader. They will be contacted to provide references regarding your suitability for this volunteer role.

You will also need to be willing to have an enhanced DBS check.

Contact info

The Haven Pregnancy Counselling Centre

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