RSACC
Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
Darlington and County Durham

"I can honestly say it's one of the best things I've done... To see people grow is wonderful"

Dear prospective volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in applying for this opportunity to support RSACC and survivors of sexual violence across Darlington and County Durham.

Looking through your application pack you'll realise we ask a lot of our volunteers, but we give a lot back too. As well as the opportunity to make a huge difference to the lives of survivors, we also provide:

- an ongoing training and development program
- access to clinical supervision and ongoing support
- the opportunity to apply for some internal vacancies
- references where appropriate
- development opportunities within volunteering roles
- the opportunity to help shape future service delivery
- the chance to meet some fantastic people!

"The volunteer support network at RSACC is great, and it's wonderful to volunteer alongside so many like-minded women who encourage and support each other to provide the best service to survivors of sexual violence"

We really appreciate our volunteers and the amazing support they offer. As such we're developing even more meaningful ways to support and recognise this contribution including social gatherings, online drop ins, and wellbeing sessions at full team meetings.

Further information about the roles available, the application and training process and how to apply are included in the application pack. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the opportunity or application process please contact recruitment@rsacc-thecentre.org.uk.

Thanks again for your interest and support,

Kate

Kate Larkin
Support, Prevention & Volunteering Manager

"I found the volunteer training at RSACC eye-opening and completely transformative"

"It's incredibly rewarding to be integrated in an organisation that empowers survivors and provides vital support to women in need"

"The training is fantastic, and the support from RSACC is incomparable to other placements. You really are cared for."

NATIONAL SERVICE STANDARDS
Rape Crisis Professionally Approved

Volunteer process

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Due to the specialist nature of the volunteering we provide comprehensive training. In order to justify our investment in the training we ask that volunteers commit to providing support at least once a fortnight for a minimum of 12 months (unless otherwise agreed with the volunteer manager). Volunteer counsellors are required to deliver 2-3 client sessions each week for 12 months.

Induction process

1. Volunteer application submitted
2. Volunteer pre-training interview
3. References taken up
4. Induction training completed (4 full Saturday sessions, 5 evening sessions and some self-guided study)
5. Skills assessments completed (it is the responsibility of the prospective volunteer to make themselves available for this)
6. Volunteer post-training interview
7. DBS completed
8. Welcome checklist completed and volunteer agreement signed
9. Role specific inductions undertaken and safeguarding training completed
10. Volunteer shadowing for non counselling roles (at least one session)

Active volunteering

- Active volunteering begins with a 6 month introductory period
- Clinical supervision (approximately every 2 months but will vary depending on the volunteer role and frequency of volunteering)
- Volunteer development sessions quarterly (training on specific topics, meeting other team members, attending full RSACC team meetings)
- Review with volunteer manager after first 6 months
- Appraisal with volunteer manager annually

Volunteers will receive access to ongoing training and development. Achievements and milestones will be recognised and celebrated . References and the opportunity to apply for internal vacancies will be provided where appropriate.

Volunteers who miss 2 training/development or clinical supervision sessions may be requested to step back from volunteering until a session has been attended. Volunteers who take more than 3 months away from volunteering may be required to undertake additional training, skills practice or shadowing prior to recommencing any shifts. Volunteers may be asked to shadow other volunteers or be shadowed by a volunteer (or volunteer manager) to ensure consistency across the service and to share best practice.

Volunteers - Key dates

RSACC
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Thanks for your interest in volunteering with us! Our volunteers provide a mixture of direct and non-direct support to survivors of sexual violence and make a real difference.

Recruitment dates

Application deadline Monday 11th May 9 am
Interviews Monday 18th - Friday 29th May - Virtual
References taken up

Volunteer Initial Training dates

Training will be delivered in a mixture of in person and virtual sessions. There will also be some self-directed study. Full course attendance is required.

Training Q&A session and welcome (optional) Wednesday 10th June 6pm - Virtual
Wednesday 17th June 5:30-8:30 - Virtual
Saturday 20th June 9:30-4:30 - In person (Radisson Blu, Durham)
Wednesday 24th June 5:30-8:30 - Virtual
Saturday 27th June 9:30-4:30 - In person (Radisson Blu, Durham)
Wednesday 1st July 5:30-8:30 - Virtual
Wednesday 8th July 5:30-8:30 - Virtual
Saturday 11th July 9:30-4:30 - In person (Radisson Blu, Durham)
Wednesday 15th July 5:30-8:30 - Virtual
Saturday 18th 9:30-4:30 - In person (Radisson Blu, Durham)

Skills assessments - August (virtual)
Post-course Interviews - August (virtual)
DBS checks completed

Additional training (online to be arranged by you) - August/September
Welcome checklist - virtual or in person during August where possible
Shadowing (where appropriate) - in person/virtual during September where possible
Active volunteering begins - a minimum of once per fortnight for 12 months.
Two-three clients per week is required for volunteer counsellors.

Follow up dates

Clinical Supervision (regularly depending on role and amount of activity)
Training & development sessions - Ongoing
6 month review - March/April 2027
Annual Appraisals