Textiles Group Volunteer

Ideal time commitment: weekly on Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm, ideally a minimum of 6 months

Reports to: Community and Integration Manager

About the Helen Bamber Foundation

The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF) is a human rights charity based in London which was founded in 2005. Our specialist team of therapists, doctors and legal experts have an international reputation for providing therapeutic care, medical consultation, legal protection and practical support to survivors of human rights violations.

HBF grew from the recognition that people who have suffered prolonged inter-personal violence – whether from human trafficking; war; community, domestic or gender-based violence – present with similar physical and psychological symptoms to torture survivors and experience the same complex and enduring responses to their trauma.

We offer our clients a Model of Integrated Care, providing legal, medical, psychological and welfare support, as well as an Integration Programme which includes arts-based groups, and skills-based classes such as English and IT. Through this, we help our clients to develop a sustained recovery from extreme trauma.

About the role

The Creative Arts and Skills Programme (CASP) is a wide-ranging range of classes and groups focused on providing development opportunities for our clients as well as supporting their improved integration into the community. It is a creative outlet, a community, and an opportunity for clients to learn new skills.

The textiles group runs weekly and provides an opportunity for our clients to learn useful new skills and meet new people. We are looking to recruit two new volunteers for this group, who will work together with the existing group volunteer to teach dressmaking skills to our clients and support them to work on various textiles projects.

Main tasks and activities

* Working together with our current Textiles group volunteer to teach sewing, pattern cutting, dressmaking and upcycling skills to clients;
* Supporting clients to develop and carry out their own textiles projects;
* Coordinating the clients and taking the register on a weekly basis;
* Setting up and packing away the sewing machines, fabrics and other equipment before and after the session;
* Raising any issues which the clients face with the Community and Integration Manager

Skills and experience needed

* Understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives of the Helen Bamber Foundation;
* A demonstrable empathy for our vulnerable clients, including asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of torture and trafficking;
* Dressmaking skills essential;
* Experience of teaching or instructing people in dressmaking skills (desirable);
* Awareness of confidentiality and the importance of it in regards to our clients;
* Punctual, reliable and self-motivated with a positive, ’can-do’ attitude;
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to create a warm and welcoming community environment;
* Demonstrable experience of working within a team.

What you will get out of the role

* A strong understanding of how HBF’s integration programmes contribute to the well-being of our clients;
* An appreciation of the processes and systems that asylum seekers and refugees deal with in the UK;
* Increased experience and confidence in teaching dressmaking and textiles skills;
* Increased teamwork skills;
* An ability to multi-task between competing priorities.