

Refuge



**For women and children.
Against domestic violence.**



**Children's Support Worker
Applicant Information Pack**

Introduction from the CEO

Thank you for your interest in working for Refuge.

We have a diverse team of incredible people who work together to provide an inclusive approach to ensure that every woman who needs support when facing domestic abuse, receives it.

We do this through a combination of frontline services offering immediate safety and support to women and their children. We also lead vital work to influence and change policies and practices that impact women and girls and use public engagement and campaigning to help change societal attitudes and norms.

We know that domestic abuse will never end until it is recognised by society as the crime that it is, and there is an understanding that it is underpinned by misogyny. We will not stop until we are able to challenge and shift harmful societal attitudes as well as drive policy and practice change that is needed to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). It is only then that women and children will be free to live their lives in safety, with control over their choices and without fear.

Whatever your role at Refuge, you will have the opportunity to grow and develop as part of an amazing diverse and inclusive team of inspirational and talented people who provide vital and specialist services to women and children when their lives are in crisis. This is not always easy work, but it is essential, it is lifesaving, and it is life changing. So, whether you work directly with clients, behind the scenes, or represent Refuge to the outside world, you will be an integral part of what we do.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Abigail Ampofo
Interim CEO





We want kind and empathetic people to work at Refuge, who believe in equality, diversity, and inclusion, are experts in their area of knowledge, want to make a positive difference and improve the lives of the women and children we support.

We are recruiting for a Children's Support Worker who will be working closely with children and their mothers who are living in our refuges escaping domestic violence and other forms of violence and abuse, to provide personal welfare support and ensure that our clients are provided with a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment.

This post is restricted to women due to the nature of the role. The Occupational Requirement under Schedule 9 (part 1) of the Equality Act 2010 applies.

Salary

£28,104 Per annum

(Inclusive of London Weighting, which may not be applicable depending on your home location and any agreed permanent homeworking arrangement)

Employment term:

The Full-time post is Permanent, Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

Location:

Hillingdon, London

Closing Date

09.00 am on 9th September 2024

Interview Date

19th and 20th September 2024

Employment Terms

Salary:

The annual full-time salary is £28,104 per annum. Please note that this includes a London Weighting Allowance of £3,000 which may not be applicable depending on your home location and homeworking arrangements.

Refuge is an accredited Living Wage Employer. This means that every member of staff working here will earn a real Living Wage. The real Living Wage is higher than the government's minimum, or National Living Wage, and is an independently calculated hourly rate of pay that is based on the actual cost of living. We voluntarily choose to pay the real Living Wage because we believe that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay.

Days/Hours of work:

The contracted hours of work are 37.5 hours per week, between Monday to Friday. This is exclusive of an unpaid lunch for every full day worked.

Probation:

All appointments are subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks, further details of which will be provided when an offer of employment is made. The probation period for this post is 6 months.

Annual Leave:

Annual leave allowance is 28 days per annum plus public holidays, rising to 30 days following completion of five years' service at the start of the annual leave year. This is pro rata for part-time roles.

Pension:

Refuge operates a qualifying salary sacrifice pension scheme with Aegon which includes a 6% Employer contribution.

Employee Benefits

Refuge offers a variety of exciting opportunities to learn, develop and grow in your career. We recognise the value everyone brings to the organisation in achieving our aims, and we are dedicated to developing and rewarding our staff.

We offer all our employees a competitive benefits package including:

- Competitive salary
- Clinical supervision for all staff
- Confidential support and advice service via an employee assistance programme available 24 hours a day which provides support on a range of work and personal issues
- Enhanced sick pay leave which increases with length of service
- Excellent sector leading maternity, adoption, parental and paternity pay and leave
- Generous life cover scheme valued at four times individuals' salary and covers death in service subject to insurers approval
- Eye care e-Voucher scheme
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Discounted membership with PureGym
- Access to Perkbox providing discounts to employees on a wide range of activities and online purchases
- Opportunity to join our wide range of Equality Network Groups
- Access to free Will writing service

- The ability to apply for flexible working from day one. There will be space to discuss flexible working at interview
- Interest free loans to purchase season tickets for travel to work and/or to pay deposits to secure rented accommodation, and for professional qualifications

Training and Learning

We are committed to supporting a culture that enables all staff to achieve their full potential by providing a range of professional and personal development opportunities including access to a wide range of e-learning resources.

Job Description

Job Title	Children's Support Worker
Directorate	Service Delivery
Reports to	Service Manager
No. of direct reports:	N/A
Budget responsibility	N/A
Location	Hillingdon
Working hours	37.5 hours per week
Working pattern	10:00am – 18.00pm x 5 days per week – Monday - Friday

Role Purpose

The job involves working closely with children and their mothers who are living in our refuges escaping domestic violence and other forms of violence and abuse. A key requirement is to provide personal one to one and group support to children and young people to ensure they are provided with a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment.

The post holder will support children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence and plan and provide stimulating, safe, and appropriate activities.

Key Accountabilities

Managing service delivery and performance

- To create a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for children.
- Work closely with mothers to understand the needs of children.
- Provide one to one support to children and young people where necessary.
- To plan and provide stimulating play opportunities to encourage children from all backgrounds to develop and express themselves through play.
- To take an active role in leading interactive activities during school holidays and after school.
- To work closely with Refuge Workers to provide practical information and assistance to women about local services for children, such as play schemes, nursery, or schools.
- To provide fun and creative activities for children and their mothers together where appropriate.
- To undertake risk assessment for all activities to ensure that all health and safety requirements are met.
- To ensure that any issues in relation to safeguarding children or vulnerable adults are brought to the immediate attention of the service manager, or if unavailable another manager.
- To address children safeguarding issues with guidance from manager and the Children's Programme Lead.
- To provide childcare so that mothers can speak freely about their experiences of abuse and make safety plans without their child being present and to enable them to attend meetings with solicitors, police, and other agencies.
- To work with Refuge workers to ensure a package of support is provided to children and their mothers, ensuring sensitivity to cultural needs and to address issues such as discrimination and other barriers to accessing services.
- To set up and maintain an inventory of all equipment and resources.
- To undertake administrative tasks and keep records of service activity as required. This will include providing details of activities to the fundraising team so they can update funders.
- To be a member of Refuge's Children Support Workers' Forum and provide input towards the development of Refuge's national Children's Programme through feedback.

- To be an ambassador for Refuge, working in partnership with other agencies to ensure an effective, coordinated community response to survivors of domestic violence and their children.
- To work within Refuge's quality management system following all policies and procedures.
- To report any problems/difficulties/complaints to the manager and participate in follow up investigations as required.
- To maintain confidentiality and to ensure that professional boundaries are observed when working with clients, staff and external bodies and to work within Refuge's Code of Conduct.

Managing security

- To maintain the security and well-being of survivors of domestic violence and their children within the premises, and to communicate immediately with the Services Manager any breaches of security, house rules or occupancy agreements especially where there is concern about safety.
- Ensuring that the confidentiality and security of information is maintained in accordance with our Confidentiality, Data Protection, IT and Security policies.

Managing health and safety

- To promote and ensure safe working for self and others by strict adherence to Refuge Security procedures and Health and Safety policy.
- To and support the management of health, safety and security within a refuge, including carrying out and recording regular fire and health and safety checks, ensuring that fire equipment and fire doors are in working order and not obstructed.
- To ensure that all equipment provided by Refuge is in safe working order and that periodic testing and maintenance is carried out.
- To ensure that the accommodation is always attractive and comfortable and that a good standard of hygiene is maintained in the refuge. To carry out cleaning and other light manual duties when required.
- To arrange and supervise contractors, carrying out maintenance, window cleaning and cleaning of communal areas.

Managing self

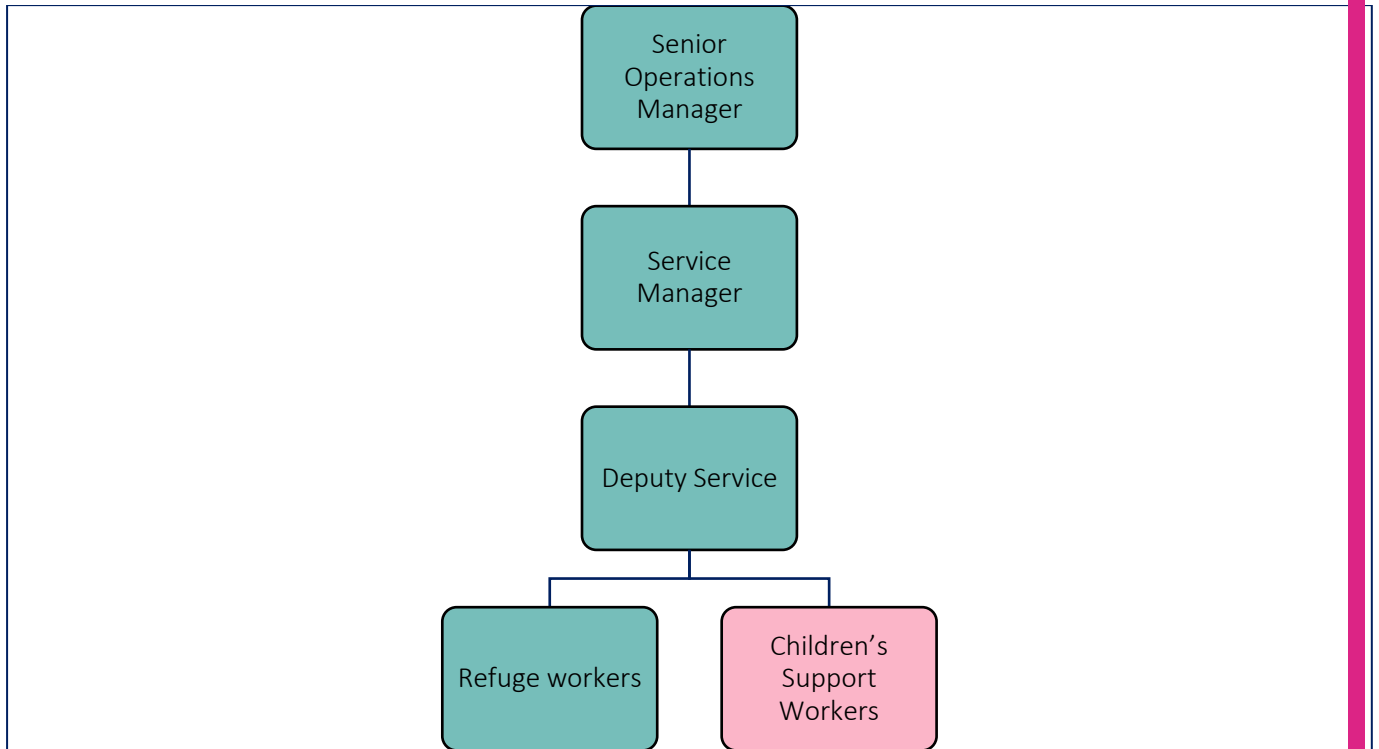
- To promote and support equality and empowerment within all areas of work.
- To represent and be an ambassador for Refuge, working in partnership internally and externally with other agencies to ensure an effective coordinated community response to survivors of sexual violence and their children.
- Developing and maintaining positive, collaborative working relationships with other Refuge staff.
- Enhancing personal capability by undertaking continuous personal development activity and maintaining up to date knowledge.
- Promoting sustainable working practices and reducing the environmental impact of Refuge's work.
- Demonstrating an understanding of and commitment to Refuge's values and to equity, equality, diversity and inclusion.
- To actively participate in Refuge's performance management processes including regular supervisions and development. (Please note this may involve travel to London)

This post is restricted to women due to the nature of the role. The Occupational Requirement under Schedule 9 (part 1) of the Equality Act 2010 applies.

We are committed to safeguarding therefore we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. As part of this commitment, we undertake basic disclosure checks (DBS) in accordance with the DBS Code of Practice for all roles. We undertake an enhanced DBS check for our roles working directly with survivors.

It is essential to the development of Refuge's service delivery that the post holder can respond flexibly to changes in the requirements of this post. This job description is therefore a guide and not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities the postholder may have over time.

Team Structure Chart



Who Are We Looking For?

For us it is important that you are passionate, committed and care about the work Refuge undertakes. Not all roles require previous experience in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector. You may be able to bring relevant experience from another industry or transferable skills from a different type of role or volunteering/community experience.

For us, a role description is a useful guide. But please don't discount yourself if you feel you don't meet all the criteria and believe you have the potential. Above all we value individuals who are committed to working hard but looking after yourself, flourish in an inclusive environment and want to make a positive difference to the communities we support.



Person Specification:

Experience, Knowledge & Qualifications

- Good standard of general education or equivalent experience.
- Proven experience of working with children.
- Experience of organising and providing play and other activities.
- Experience of identifying and responding to the risks to and needs of survivors of domestic violence and other forms of violence and abuse.
- Experience of working in a residential setting/ refuge/or any other domestic violence setting

Skills

- Knowledge of the dynamics and impact of domestic violence and other forms of violence and abuse and how best to support survivors.
- An understanding of health and safety requirements in providing services for children.
- Evidence of the ability to build and develop supportive relationships with individuals who may have complex needs.
- Understanding of and willingness to undertake training in Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- Evidence of the ability to build effective relationships, both internally and externally, showing sensitivity for others' viewpoints and valuing diversity
- Evidence of the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, including the ability to listen actively and match communication to the needs of the recipient.
- Evidence of the ability to take responsibility for own actions and behaviour being able to reflect on previous experiences to improve own practice.
- Evidence of the ability to be calm and resilient whilst under pressure and to remain optimistic and persistent.
- Evidence of the ability to work as a team member and within a line management structure, understanding the importance of seeking guidance and support when required.
- Evidence of ability to plan and prioritise work activities.
- Demonstrable ability to use Microsoft Office (word, excel, outlook, access).

Personal Qualities

- An interest in and commitment to the long-term success and development of Refuge.
- Acts as a role model for the organisation with integrity and a demonstrable commitment to upholding professional standards.
- Demonstrates passion and approaches all work in an enthusiastic way.
- Commitment to follow the policies, procedures and philosophical principles of Refuge and a strong commitment to feminism, empowerment, support and equality which underpin all of the work undertaken by Refuge.

An Inclusive Workplace for All

- Our vision is to have a workforce that is reflective of the communities we serve; therefore, we actively encourage and welcome applications from candidates of diverse cultures, perspectives and lived experiences.
- We are committed to challenging the inequalities of society and will continue to learn and grow as an organization to ensure that we provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.
- We understand that people have personal lives, and these can sometimes impact on their time and availability. We will be as flexible as we possibly can be in terms of supporting staff to balance their work and their personal lives. If you need flexibility within your working hours, working pattern or location then do let us know and if the role and team can support that request, we will do what we can to support you.
- We are proud to have been awarded Disability Confident - Committed. Refuge is aware that individuals with disabilities, or long-term health conditions or are D/deaf or neurodivergent are underrepresented in the sector. Refuge is committed to doing what we can to support our employees.
- We committed to paying a competitive salary for the sector because we want to help break the poverty cycle and reduce social economic barriers to those working within the sector. This is reflected in our commitment to the Show the Salary pledge and #Nongraduateswelcome and being an Accredited Living Wage employer.
- We understand that individuals who are Black, Asian and ethnically diverse are often underrepresented within the sector therefore we have signed up to the VAWG Anti-Racism charter, we have an EDI Steering Group and equality, diversity and inclusion training.
- Furthermore, we have seven Employee Network Groups providing a safe space for staff to share their lived experiences and to challenge us as an organization to do better.

These groups are:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- LGBTQI+ Shine
- Anti-Racism and Equality
- Allies
- Families
- Women's
- Disability and Neurodiversity Matters

How To Apply

Key Information and Deadlines

Key Information and Deadlines

To apply please access our online application form via our website:

<https://refugecareers.ciphr-irecruit.com/Applicants/vacancy>

Applications must be completed and submitted by 9.00am on 9th September 2024.

- If you have any questions or want to discuss the post before applying, please contact us via email to recruitment@refuge.org.uk
- You can also find out more information about Refuge at www.refuge.org.uk

Interviews will take place via video conference on 19th and 20th September (via Microsoft Teams).

Completing your application form

What matters most to us when recruiting new members to join the Refuge team, is the inclusive attitude and relevant experience you will bring to the organisation and the role, and how you will support our values of: *A FEMINIST FORCE FOR GOOD, NEVER SHY AWAY, BUILD IT TOGETHER, SHOW WE CARE, LEARN EVERY DAY*. The full values can be downloaded from our [website](#)

Please note that we do not accept CVs for this job vacancy and all applications must be submitted via our online application form. The application process will require you to complete various sections of the application form. It is important that you complete all sections. Please do indicate N/A (not applicable) should some areas of the form not apply to you.

Your Supporting Statement section of the application form describing your skills and experience against the job description and person specification, will also be used to determine who to invite for an interview. Therefore, please do give clear examples of how your skills and experience are relevant to the job you are applying for, and how and where you have used them. Your Supporting Statement should not exceed a maximum of 800 words.

For example, this can be:

- Relevant experience from your present or previous jobs.
- Skills and experience gained from community or voluntary work, work experience, leisure interests and activities in the home.
- Education and the training you have received.

We would like to thank you in advance for expressing an interest in working for Refuge. We look forward to receiving your application.

Applications from Refuge Service Users and Survivors

Former Refuge service users and other survivors supporting Refuge in its external work including for fundraising, policy, media and press can apply for all externally advertised job vacancies.

Survivors that are currently using our services cannot apply for Refuge job vacancies. This restriction is for the survivor's safety and to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

A confirmation of a conditional job offer to a former service user will be subject to a risk assessment. Where significant risks to Refuge and other service users cannot be mitigated, we may not be able to make a conditional offer of employment. If successful in securing the role, their data on Impact will be protected.

Our commitment to inclusive recruitment

Our People and Culture team will remove your name, address and date of birth before forwarding your information for shortlisting. Your education is only considered if it is a requirement of the role.

We want Refuge to be an organisation that is reflective of the society we are based in, therefore, we are committed to growing our diverse workforce. The information you provide on the diversity monitoring form is confidential and helps the People and Culture team to understand where you would have seen the role and how we may need to do better in ensuring everyone who wants to work for Refuge is aware of the opportunities as they arise.

Other information

Safeguarding is vital to our work, and we strive to prevent harm and promote and protect the welfare and safety of all adults and children that come in contact with the organisation. We have a collective responsibility to take a do no harm approach by prioritising the safety and wellbeing of the women and children accessing our services, as well as ensuring a duty of care to our staff and volunteers.

As part of this responsibility, we undertake basic disclosure checks (DBS) for all roles in accordance with the Codes of Practice and in line with our Recruitment of Ex-Offender and Disclosure Barring Services Checks Policy, and for our roles working directly with survivors, at an enhanced level check. Applicants are encouraged to apply for job vacancies, having a spent or unspent conviction will not automatically exclude you from being offered the role. If you are successful in securing the role, we will hold an open and measured discussion about any convictions that might be relevant to the role. Our Recruitment of Ex-Offender and Disclosure Barring Services Checks Policy is available to applicants on request.

Data Protection Act

Refuge is committed to protecting your privacy. Information provided by you in your application form will be kept for the purposes of monitoring. It will be copied for use during the recruitment process. Once the recruitment process is completed, the data will be stored for a maximum of 6 months and then destroyed. If you are the successful candidate, relevant information will be taken from this form and used as part of your human resources record. All personal information that you supply to us as part of your application will be processed in accordance with prevailing UK Data Protection legislation.

By submitting your completed application form you are consenting to your personal data being used and held as described above.

Please ensure that the information you give to us is correct and that you let us know of any changes immediately.

