

Volunteer Role Description

Solace Women's Aid supports women and children in London to build safe lives and strong futures, free from domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

Role Title	Volunteer Play Worker
Service	Islington/Enfield Refuges
Work Place Supervisor	Specialist Family Support Worker
Location	Islington/Enfield
Commitment	Minimum one afternoon per week 3 hours, either: Wednesdays 10am-1pm (in Islington) Friday 12pm – 3pm (in Enfield)
Duration	6 – 12 months commitment
Role Description	<p>We are looking for individuals with professional or lived experience of working with children. Our volunteer playworkers are passionate about play and providing a welcoming and safe space for all children.</p> <p>As a volunteer play worker, you will work in partnership with the Specialist Family Support Worker in the planning and delivery of play sessions. Most children will be between the ages of 2-5 years. Play sessions will be child-centred and age-appropriate, and will include arts and crafts, sensory play and free play with toys/resources in the refuge.</p> <p>Working with the Specialist Family Support Worker, you will be able to respond to the individual needs of the children and adapt sessions as needed. You will record your observations on each child at the end of the session and reflect on how the sessions went with Specialist Family Support Worker.</p> <p>You will be expected to participate in setting up and in the evaluation of the session. You may also be asked your availability to attend additional sessions and trips to be held over school half terms.</p>
Benefits to the volunteer	<p>As part of this role, you will have the opportunity to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining experience of facilitating play sessions for children in recovery from domestic abuse. • An insight into the experiences of children in recovery from domestic abuse. • Experience in working in partnership with Specialist Family Support Workers in the planning, delivery and evaluation of play sessions in a refuge/community setting. • Opportunity to attend training and social events with other Solace Women's Aid volunteers. • Trauma-Informed Practice training from the Specialist Family Support Worker team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being part of a supportive team who aim to build on the strengths and skills of all our members.
Skills and Qualifications Required	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the vision, mission and values of Solace Women's Aid Professional and/or lived experience of working with children Understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people A strengths-focused approach to working with challenging behaviour Knowledge of Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Procedures Commitment to attend Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and Equality and Diversity training with Solace Women's Aid Ability to communicate effectively with children aged 0-5, parents and staff Basic knowledge of child development Organisation and time management skills <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal qualification in working with children, young people and families Knowledge of trauma-informed approaches to working with children and young people
Training Opportunities	<p>Volunteers will be able to access Solace Women's Aid's induction and internal volunteer training programme.</p> <p>Full support will be given to help volunteers understand and carry out any aspect of the role as appropriate. You will be supported by the Specialist Family Support Worker in monthly supervisions. This is a space to discuss your volunteering role, what is going well for you and areas of support you need.</p>
Expenses	<p>As per our Volunteer Policy we will reimburse reasonable travel and lunch expenses. Travel expenses will be reimbursed at a maximum of £20 a day travel card. Agreed lunch expenses up to a maximum of £5.00. These amounts will be reimbursed for those volunteering for over 6 hours in a single day.</p>
Lived Experience	<p>Solace recognises the expertise and perspective that women with lived experience bring to their volunteering roles. We also recognise the potential for re-traumatisation that may occur whilst volunteering. We will therefore consider each volunteer opportunity on a case by case basis, with a focus on the suitability of that individual for that specific role. Suitability for the role will be determined by the Service Manager at the point of interview and will not be solely based on the length of time elapsed since receiving a service. Women cannot volunteer for a service in the same borough as where they received Solace services.</p>

**For more
information
contact**

Volunteer Co-ordinator
 Email: volunteering@solacewomensaid.org
 Call: 020 3795 9220

At Solace we are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for our volunteers. The Service Users we support come from all backgrounds and we want to reflect that in our volunteering team. We are happy to consider any adjustments you might need to support you in your role. If you would like to discuss this further with the volunteer team, please contact us at volunteering@solacewomensaid.org. This will not affect your application.