



CIVIL SERVICE

North East

Volunteering Opportunity



DePaul UK helps young people who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged. They are the largest charity for young homeless people in the UK and have helped over 50,000 people since they were founded in 1989.

DePaul UK has made a name for itself by working with the most disadvantaged young people in the UK. They specialise in working in communities where poverty and long-term unemployment have resulted in generations of social exclusion and high rates of homelessness.

80, 000 young people experience homelessness each year often through no fault of their own

These figures fail to account for the growing number of hidden homeless living in poor quality hostels or on friend's sofas. It is believed there are now 250,000 people under the age of 25 who are considered "hidden homeless."

The most common cause of youth homelessness is family breakdown, usually with parents or step-parents. For many this is a consequence of long term conflict within the home and often involves violence.

For others they may have recently left the care system, suffered abuse or bullying, been released from prison or suffered from mental health issues or bereavement. Increasing youth unemployment is also a serious factor with over 935,000 young people now classified as NEET (not in education, training and employment) up from 810,000 at the end of last year.

The young people DePaul work with will all have suffered from isolation and a Lack of support throughout their short lives. Mostly all they need is safe and

Secure accommodation, guidance and support and a sense of respect and compassion - things they will have never received before. Once they are provided with these simple things, so many of the young people we DePaul work with go onto lead positive and independent lives.



“This young homeless girl was blowing a penny whistle outside the Odeon cinema. She was sat on the floor with her dog by her side. I grabbed this shot of her, then gave her a few pounds and bought her a hot coffee afterwards”. (Stephen Wright)

DePaul has grown as an organisation over the last 21 years across the UK.

They believe that no person should have to sleep rough, and whilst they work to provide the accommodation that offers an immediate solution to homelessness it is also a vital part of their work to prevent young people becoming homeless in the first place.

There are many different volunteering opportunities with DePaul:

Baseline Mentoring

DePaul Baseline Mentoring Project has opportunities to mentor a young person.

The volunteer will be trained (this will be a commitment of more than one day) and the volunteer will need to be trained in all aspects of mentoring which will take 3 days. This could be carried out over to suit the volunteer if necessary (3 sessions of 1 hour - 6 sessions of 30 min's)

The volunteer will then be matched to a young person whose needs match that of the mentor's. The mentor will then set targets for that young person and help them to achieve this target step by step. This relationship could last up to 6 months. And would require a commitment of about 3 hours per week.

Training

DePaul tries to give advice to young people about benefits but would appreciate our staff assisting them with giving advice and information and form filling.

You could work with young people and share information about your particular skill or hobby this could be for instance:

- Photography: you could teach young people the basics of photography and maybe take them on a trip out with some digital cameras and show them how to get the best shots – this would be followed up by DePaul locating some photography courses for their people.
- Art or jewellery making, cookery
- Playing a musical instrument
- Could you hold a skills workshop on CV writing or basic IT
- Holding a sport or keep fit class

Before completing an [Expression of Interest](#) form (EOI) please ensure you have read and understood your organisation's volunteering guidance and agree to take part in volunteering in accordance with this guidance.

Please complete this EOI and email to:

michele.crawford@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk and jane.harvey@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

You can [email both by clicking on this link](#)



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better opportunities for civil servants, better services for the public