

Residential Volunteer

Role Description

Reports to:

Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator

Salary:

This is a volunteer role – free accommodation, utilities, council tax and Wi-Fi are all provided.

Role Overview:

Separated young people seeking asylum are at risk from a variety of factors which we aim to address by using a holistic support approach. At Baca, we support our young people to achieve an increase in personal safety, social engagement and engagement with education. We also support them to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. We believe that one key way to achieve these changes is through an adult living in the home with our young people as a Residential Volunteer.

The role requires the individual to move in to one of our properties and be a 'big brother/sister' to the young people (16-18 years) who are supported by the Baca Charity. The Residential Volunteer plays an important role within the team by giving support to the young people within their homes and by setting a positive example of how to live independently. We have a member of staff on-call 24/7 for any safeguarding concerns and/or emergencies. Therefore, the role of the Residential Cover Volunteer is to communicate as required and to then sleep at the house overnight.

Role Descriptors:

- Use the Baca house as your main residence
- Be a positive role model to the young people within the house
- Assist young people to settle into the house
- Assist the young people residing in the house with daily life skills and basic house maintenance matters such as weekly cleaning, correct use of bins and changing light bulbs
- Encourage young people in the house to engage with their local community
- Communicate well with the Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator regarding anything related to the young people living there, both positive feedback and any concerns regarding safeguarding
- Promptly report maintenance issues to the Operations Manager
- Report any house or young people related emergencies out-of-hours to the on-call member of staff as quickly as possible
- Collate any post delivered to the house for Baca or previous tenants and forward to the Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator

- Give a minimum of two weeks' notice for any nights away from the house so that we can provide the necessary cover. We recommend an average of twenty-eight nights away from the house per year

FAQs

Will I receive any training?

Yes, we will provide you with safeguarding training and a full staff induction. This will include information about Baca, our purpose and objectives; an understanding of the House Rules to be observed by the young people; more information about what the Residential Volunteer role entails; what to do in an emergency and what support is available to you, and introduction to the Baca team. In addition, we will introduce you to our existing Residential Volunteers so that you will be able to ask them about their experiences and build a healthy rapport within the team.

What are the primary character requirements for a Residential Volunteer?

Our Residential Volunteers must be able to commit to and actively promote the principles and practices of Baca. The Residential Volunteers must be fully sympathetic to the purpose of Baca and the needs and circumstances of the young people we support. Without these characteristics it will be very difficult for any person to provide the required oversight and care.

Do I have to be in the house all the time?

No. We recognise that you may well have a job/be studying full time, and also have a busy life, but we ask that you treat the house as your home. We do ask that you get to know your housemates and spend some time with them during the week as well as living your external social life and enjoying other social commitments that you may have.

Can I go away at weekends or on holiday?

Yes, and we would encourage you to get away from time to time. If you do intend to be away from the house either for a night or two or for a longer holiday, please let us know of your plans as soon as possible. This will enable us to assess whether we need to cover your absence and give us time to make arrangements if they are needed

Who are the young people that Baca support?

Baca provides housing, care and support to unaccompanied asylum seeker children who are between the ages of 16-18 years. The young people come from anywhere in the world and will typically speak very little English on arrival to the UK.

If you have any questions, please call Roz (Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator)
07713 287027
01509 550438

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