**Counselling Volunteer at the Lighthouse Centre in partnership with WEB Merseyside**

WEB Merseyside has a long history of offering quality counselling services to local men and women of our community. WEB is always looking to expand this service to make a difference to as many people as possible and have recently started to provide a counselling service for another local charity: The Lighthouse Centre.

The Lighthouse Centre provides support services to specifically to women and families who have experienced domestic abuse. WEB Merseyside manages the counselling service for the Lighthouse Centre which involves the recruitment, induction training and placement support for volunteer counsellors who are specifically interested in working with domestic abuse.

The Lighthouse Project has their own counselling room but the service provision also allows for Lighthouse clients to also be seen at WEB Merseyside’s own counselling building, depending on availability.

Counselling Volunteers who are interested in experiencing both Placements and the subsequent diversity of clients, are welcome to request to volunteer for both placements and see clients at each organisation. This can be discussed further at interview stage.

**What kind of volunteers would be suitable?**

WEB is currently looking for kind, compassionate volunteers who are:

In their final year of their Diploma in Counselling, working towards their 100 placement hours

Qualified Counsellors who are working towards their accreditation

Qualified Counsellors looking to volunteer their services

Volunteers successful after application and interview stages, will be invited to attend a 3-day Volunteer Induction training programme which will help them to prepare for Placement. The training not only covers the practicalities of placement such as policies and procedures around Safeguarding and Suicide Risk and Prevention, it also involves personal development exercises to support the volunteers with their own confidence, self-esteem, emotional boundaries and grounding. Following the successful completion of the training programme, volunteers are invited to attend a 1-1 induction with the Counselling Manager where they will be able to familiarise themselves with their counselling room and all the relevant paperwork, and they have to opportunity to ask any questions and gain any additional support needed prior to commencing with clients.

**Organisation Descriptions**:

**WEB Merseyside** is a community-based service provider that supports women, men and children with complex needs who may be isolated, victimised, discriminated against, have low self-esteem and lack hope. WEB operates with a service-user ethos and offers a range of services and facilities for women, men and children including:

Extensive Training services in confidence, self-esteem and personal development for men and women; 1:1 support; Family support; Social groups and activities around mental health, well-being and fun; Counselling (men, women & children); Young women’s groups; and Boy’s groups.

**The Lighthouse Centre** isthe only Domestic Abuse centre on the Wirral that welcomes women and children. They provide a range of services to support families through their journey through Domestic Abuse using a person-centred approach. They offer a space to meet others, form friendships & get support through groups and drop-ins aiming to reduce social isolation for those who have lost friendships through a domestic abuse relationship.

WEB & The Lighthouse Centre both operate in Wirral, Merseyside.

When Required : Counselling availability at WEB is between Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm. The Lighthouse Centre offers both daytime availability and some evenings.

Commitment: 12 months

Main task:

· Providing 1-1 counselling services to women only at the Lighthouse Centre (men & women at WEB only, or men & women by doing placements at both)

Includes:

· Welcoming clients into the centre

· Making refreshments

· Providing a non-judgemental environment

· Maintaining ground rules of centre

· Following confidentiality and safeguarding procedures

· Completing paperwork

· Sign posting to other services/agencies

Skills and Qualifications :

At least in final year of Diploma in Counselling or working towards their 100/150 placement hours or qualified Counsellors who are working towards their accreditation. Preferably qualified in 'Integrative Counselling' or working towards this qualification.

Enhanced DBS Check Required for all potential volunteers

We are looking for volunteers with enthusiasm, reliability, willingness to learn, friendliness and flexibility. We would expect volunteers to operate in a kind, open-minded and non-judgemental way at all times. Previous experience working with people preferred but not essential. We do ask for a minimum commitment which will be discussed further at the application stage. This is due to the time and resources it takes for volunteers to be recruited and trained and also the commitment to clients.