



Dear Applicant,

21 years ago, ASSIST was founded in Sheffield as a resistance movement against the injustice of the UK's discriminatory immigration laws, standing against the marginalisation and dehumanisation of people in our society. Two decades on, the challenge remains, but our movement has grown stronger and we remain as committed as when we began.

ASSIST Sheffield is a local charity providing support and solidarity to people who, after having their asylum claim refused, face destitution in our community. Through our small staff team of 12 and a 140-strong volunteer network, including people with lived experience of the asylum system, we support people to live with hope and dignity for the future by providing a safe place to live, money and casework and advocacy support for people to try and navigate and challenge complex systems that by design try to stop them accessing basic rights.

We were founded by a community of committed and capable volunteers and have learnt a great deal about how to listen, learn, uphold and champion the rights of people seeking sanctuary, alongside delivering effective, empowering critical support services - we work in solidarity not charity.

Where possible we are led by the voices of our clients, ensuring people who are Experts by Experience are informing the work ASSIST does. We are actively committed to challenging the daily realities of racism and all forms of oppression, in our organisation and externally, and we still have a lot to learn about how to do this work well.

This is a truly exciting time to join ASSIST as we bring in fresh perspectives and experience into our community to work alongside the passion, knowledge and experience of our capable long-term staff team.

In 2023/24, we supported 87 clients, 23 of whom successfully moved on to asylum or statutory support or were granted Leave to Remain (LTR). We have designed and developed a Three-Stage Model of support which sees our organisation gradually working with clients into a progression path out of destitution: Stabilising, Planning for the future and Moving on.

We are the largest provider of accommodation for people who have been refused asylum in South Yorkshire. Through a portfolio of ten properties and a hosting network of volunteers, accommodation is available for short-term and longer-term periods (up to 24 months) for up to 37 people who would otherwise be homeless.

Alongside accommodation, we support approximately 60 people per week with financial payments, bus passes and emergency support via a weekly multi-agency

drop in. Clients attend regular sessions with our caseworkers and volunteers, who deliver person-centred, trauma-informed support for up to three years, including referrals for legal advice, applications for statutory support, accompanying to essential appointments e.g. the Home Office or healthcare, interpreting, and access to English classes, sports groups or volunteering activities.

We are rooted in the local community and regularly consult our clients on organisational developments to ensure our work is led by those with lived experience.

Diversity and Inclusion

ASSIST is working towards becoming an anti-oppressive organisation, and we centre the voices of the people who are experts by their experience of the Hostile Environment. We are keen to recruit people with Lived Experience of the Hostile Environment to our staff team, as well as holding a broader vision of a wonderfully diverse team that reflects the richness of the different ethnicity/class/age/gender demographics that exist in UK society.

We therefore aim to make our application process as accessible to as many people as possible.

Please do contact us for a conversation about applying if you'd like to understand more about a role or our recruitment process, or if you have any feedback on how we could make our jobs more accessible to less represented communities in the charity sector.

ASSIST Sheffield is working together with the New Beginnings Project at Voluntary Action Sheffield to help people with lived experience of the asylum system and forced migration to access this opportunity. As part of this commitment, there will be an optional application preparation session open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about this job on **Tuesday 9th July, 5-6pm** at ASSIST Sheffield, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB. Please email jobs@assistsheffield.org.uk to register your interest in attending.

If you would like to talk on the phone about this role before applying please contact our Director, Anna Rudd on anna.rudd@assistsheffield.org.uk, who will be happy to arrange a chat with you.

ASSIST is committed to equal opportunities policies and practises and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. We particularly welcome applications from people with lived experience of the asylum system.

ASSIST Sheffield is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, no: 1154862.