



Background Information/What We Do

20 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 9 - (soon to be 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.

We were founded by a community of committed and capable volunteers and have learnt a great deal during our 20 years about how to listen, learn, uphold and champion the rights of people seeking sanctuary, alongside delivering effective, empowering critical support services - provided in solidarity not charity!

We are nothing without our community of people, and are proud to be forged from Steel Solidarity. Our trustees, clients, volunteers, supporters, funders, partners and staff come together to make real the vision of a world without borders and a UK without a Hostile Environment.

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.

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 extremely capable long term staff team.

In 2022-23, we supported 105 clients, 31 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 18 months) for up to 48 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 an anti racist 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 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.

BENEFITS

- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme - providing counselling and a range of other benefits
- 6% Employer contribution to our workplace pension scheme
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Free Eye Tests
- Effective Line Management, personal and professional development opportunities
- A supportive, wellbeing focused work environment.
- The opportunity to be part of an effective, well respected community organisation

Application Packs are available to download from our website: www.assistsheffield.org.uk

Completed Application Forms, queries about the post or requests to discuss the role should be emailed to: jobs@assistsheffield.org.uk **Please be aware that we will not accept CVs.**

Deadline for all applications will be 9am on Thursday 30th November 2023.

Interviews will be held in the week commencing the 4th December.

An offer of employment is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

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.