



Volunteer Role Description: Hosts

Background

ASSIST supports destitute people seeking asylum in practical ways, including the provision of accommodation for those who would otherwise be on the street. We are looking for hosts who are able to lodge adult men in a room in their homes, while they are on the waiting list for more long term accommodation.

What houses are we looking for?

- A safe space willing to host our male clients for up to 6 months (may differ from case to case)
- A separate bedroom with a door that allows privacy
- **We are not accepting families as hosts** at the moment due to safeguarding limitations
- Need to have their own key, or a lockbox available at the outside of the house
- An additional bathroom is a plus but not essential
- In your application, please give us some information about the accessibility of your house and any adaptations that might have been made. We do not require the house to be accessible, but we may have clients whose needs require this from time to time

Role Purpose

- Provide safe, temporary accommodation in a welcoming and respectful environment
- Assist with orientation to the local area (e.g., transport, shops, services)
- Maintain confidentiality and respect privacy at all times
- To communicate with ASSIST any issues or concerns
- Engage with ASSIST and your assigned “buddy” at regular intervals
- Communicate house arrangements clearly and respectfully
- The role does not entail providing support to clients beyond the stability of a home, which also supports you with maintaining healthy boundaries. Each client will have access to casework and financial support from the ASSIST team.

Support provided

- Training: Introduction to ASSIST and Confidentiality, Safeguarding and Boundaries.
- You will be paired with an experienced Hosting buddy, who can provide support and advice and will check-in with you weekly to start with.
- Additional training such as trauma-informed working or introduction to the asylum system are organised on an ad-hoc basis
- This role is part of the Housing Team at ASSIST. You will receive support from both the Housing Coordinator and Housing Manager

- Feedback and support sessions offered periodically by the Housing Team

Skills/Experience you need

- Ability to maintain healthy boundaries - we will also support you with this
- Ability to communicate clearly, consistently, and confidentially
- Understanding of, and willingness to work with, diversity and cultural differences
- The ability to speak a community language is an advantage but not necessary. Our community languages are Arabic, Kurdish, Amharic, Tigrinya, French, Vietnamese

What you can gain from the role

- Understanding the basics about the UK asylum system, and the experiences of people whose asylum claims have been refused
- On-going training relevant to the role, such as trauma informed practice

Time commitment:

- Up to 6 months per hosting period

Location: From home

Resources: We can support with some expenses related to your role such as energy bills.

Recruitment process: We will arrange a chat and a visit to your house to assess if it fits the needs of the role and answer any questions you may have. If recruited, we ask for a DBS check for everyone in the household (costs are covered by ASSIST).

ASSIST team: This role is part of the Accommodation team, managed by the Housing Manager.

Any Questions?

If you would like a chat about our roles or have questions, contact Leah, our Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator:

 07422655683

 volunteer@assistsheffield.org.uk

To apply, head to our website:

<https://www.assistsheffield.org.uk/content/volunteer-us>