

HOUNSLOW YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICE

VOLUNTEER COUNSELLOR: PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Willingness to be a counsellor working with the needs, issues and best interests of young people.
2. Completion of at least one year of humanistic counsellor training (skills and theory) at certificate level and completed 1 year of training on a 2 or 3 year humanistic counselling diploma. (Or a qualified and/or accredited humanistic counsellor)
3. An understanding of the Person Centred approach to counselling and an agreement to use this approach as a basis for work with Service clients.
4. An understanding of the need for confidentiality with young people and an undertaking to follow Hounslow Youth Counselling Service policy on this matter.
5. Understanding of and a commitment to equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.
6. An ability to learn, use and develop the skills necessary to counsel young people.
7. Ability and willingness to work as an effective member of a team.
8. Time, energy and resources to be able to work with Hounslow Youth Counselling Service. This will include a commitment to:
 - A minimum of one session per week, counselling 3 clients per week.
 - Attendance at Hounslow Youth Counselling Service core training programme
 - One hour of supervision for every 6 – 8 hours of counselling or at least 1½ hours per month, with a supervisor allocated by this service
 - Attendance at two full counsellor meetings per year for service business and policy decision making.
 - Attendance at annual review meeting with your manager
 - Attendance at team support meetings 4 times per year as applicable
 - Supervision with additional meetings as necessary
 - Attendance at the Service AGM
9. A commitment to engage in on-going CPD as outlined by HYCS while with the Service, including training and further self-development, such as personal therapy.
10. Willingness, honesty, and openness for effective supervision to take place.
11. Willingness to evaluate one's attitudes, feelings and beliefs and learn from such an experience.
12. Resilience: the capacity to work with young people's concerns without being personally diminished.
13. A willingness to follow the policies of the Management Committee and the Constitution and to seek, where necessary, to make changes through discussion and democratic processes.
14. Sufficient understanding of the counselling process and relationships so that an informed decision can be made on whether to join the Service, or not.