



Community Action Project

Women's Aid

Community Action Partner

Berkshire East and South Bucks Women's Aid

Aim: The Charity has provided a safe-haven for women and children fleeing domestic abuse for over 30 years and the organisation has expanded significantly over the past five years. The charity provides refuge for certain women, and also helps victims consider their options, safety plan and eventually rediscover their self-belief and independence. Two women a week are murdered by a current or former partner. It wrecks the lives of both adults and children and the charity. Berkshire East and South Bucks Women's Aid strive to provide safety, support and sanctuary to victims of Domestic Abuse within their local community and raise awareness around an unpopular subject, campaigning for zero-tolerance of abuse within families. In East Berkshire last year there were 5841 recorded incidents of Domestic Abuse. This Branch of the charity provides a unique, confidential and independent service to over 500 local families a year refuge provision and personalised support to up to 13 families at any one time. They provide a 24-hour helpline, specialist support to children and have just launched our new male advisory service.

Role: The charity is looking to recruit for a variety of roles:

- **Shop Role:** You will be the first point of contact for customers, answering questions, making sales and making sure the shop is well stocked and presented. You can help as much or as little as you are able during opening hours.
- **Warehouse Role:** If you prefer to be behind the scenes, they need people to help receive and sort through donated stock, prepare items for sale and ready for transportation to the shop.
- **Community Role:** If you prefer to be out and about, people are needed to help give talks to local groups about the services provided by Women's Aid. This opportunity could fit in with other commitments as it will involve weekends and evenings.
- **Drivers and Driver Assistants:** People are needed to collect donations from businesses, deliver stock to the shop and remove unsellable items.
- **Fundraising:** People are needed to help at fundraising events at weekends. Or if you are familiar with eBay you may be suitable to manage the eBay account to oversee the sale of donated items and generate funds for the charity. You would be placing values on donated items, making assessment as to whether they are suitable for eBay sales and listing items etc. Time given can be flexible but would involve some time in the warehouse.
- **Interpreting:** If you can speak a language other than English, or if you have sign language skills, you could aid communication between the victims of domestic abuse and the people at the charity.
- **Refuge and Outreach Support:** Volunteers aid outreach workers by providing support to women, carrying out any research, helping with any children who may attend an appointment and in the long-term providing cover for the Drop-In surgeries when necessary. Induction and training will be provided. Help could involve admin based support, and childcare for working sessions, assisting at after school and holiday clubs for 5-11 year old children. Another volunteer is required to rotate the toys at the refuges- once a month removing broken toys and replacing with different ones.

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- **Gardening/DIY/Handyperson/Housekeeping:** This may include general housekeeping issues, ensuring all refuges are fully equipped, clearing and making up bedrooms for new residents, sourcing and collecting donations and maintaining gardens. The Homes and Gardens team may also be involved with the residents as they move into their own homes in the community. If you are a keen gardener you could be a big help. All help to keep premises clean and tidy is very gratefully received.

Training: An induction and further training in the role will be provided. All volunteers will be fully trained in how to deal with somebody disclosing domestic abuse whilst volunteering in the community. Volunteers will also be invited to attend any internal staff training which takes place. All volunteers will have the full support of other staff members.

Location: Slough and the surrounding area.

DBS: All roles require a DBS check via the Community Partner.

Application: All volunteers must be registered as Community Action volunteers. To do so, visit <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/services/volunteering/register.html>

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