

Application Guiding Statement

Volunteer Counsellor Placements

The Well Women Centre is a thriving charity offering a range of free services to women in the Wakefield district. We offer a varied range of counselling options, working under a number of local contracts and partnerships, and pride ourselves on offering a high quality of clinical services in a professional setting. We have long provided training placements for counsellors, and volunteer positions for qualified counsellors and therapists. We offer regular in house CPD and can offer access to further IAPT training for suitable candidates. As such, we look for a high standard of application and interview when volunteer positions become available.

A successful application would allow us to get a clear picture of what stage of training you are currently at, your client work experience so far (including course based skills practice), and the kind of feedback you have been receiving about your skills. In addition we would expect to see a robust explanation of your current developing counselling model, areas you feel confident in and areas you are aware need further attention. We value honest, reflective practitioners, able to work with a range of client needs with a clear therapeutic presence and understanding of process as well as content.

We offer excellent placement support including a dedicated Team Leader and Safeguarding Team present at all placement times. In addition we offer free in house group supervision with experienced supervisors who have a good understanding of a range of training and development needs. We assess all clients for their suitability for counselling and you will be matched with clients suitable for your levels of experience and competence.

We are a dedicated, friendly centre with a vast amount of local knowledge and experience. You will be expected to be proactive in working with our current policies and practices, and the demands of our operations team including room booking, record keeping and other administrative tasks.

In order to take up a placement here the following conditions are non-negotiable. You must be able to:

- Attend the centre every week for 4 hours, at the agreed time to see a minimum of three clients. We can only offer volunteer placements at a limited number of times in the week so please double check that your availability matches the available times for this recruitment period
- Undergo a detailed induction process before starting to see clients
- Attend 1 hour group supervision once a month on a Wednesday evening (this is compulsory)
- Attend our in house Safeguarding Training, held on a number of occasions throughout the year

If you are aware of any definite barriers to meeting any of these requirements you are unlikely to be accepted for placement.

There is a high level of competition for placements at the centre so it is worth considering these guidelines carefully when making your application. We are confident that if successful, you will be offered a very well supported, enriching placement experience. Many of our staff members started at the charity as volunteers, some are now in senior management positions.

