

LEAD BEFRIENDER/CO-DIRECTOR - Maytree

A 4 day per week position. Salary indicator: £35-45k pa

Maytree offers a unique service in suicide prevention. Its mission is to save the lives of those at immediate risk of suicide, offering a few days respite at its north London house: a safe, homely, non-medical space to reflect and be heard by befriending volunteers and an experienced team of Lead Befrienders/Co-Directors, supported by a House Administrator.

Role and Responsibilities

Member of a 4-5 person team, working as front-line equals in managing day-to-day operations of this 24/7 service:

- accountable to Clinical Lead/Director, the 'primus inter pares' member of the Lead Befriender team, collaborative, flexible responsive to unpredictable pace of activity
- being on call or present some nights and weekends
- uphold and demonstrate in-depth understanding of Maytree model and exemplify Maytree's ethos and values
- ensuring befriending volunteers' understanding of, and compliance with, model's guidance on and boundaries of befriending (see "Our Practice")
- overseeing response to callers and referrals, and decisions on immediate next steps such as recommending more appropriate sources of support
- assessment against agreed criteria of those who might stay
- offering/recommending/agreeing a stay, in collaboration with another Lead Befriender
- ensuring guest understanding and commitment to conditions and boundaries
- take the lead in 1-2-1 sessions with guests, especially on arrival and pre-leaving
- briefing and collaborative guidance on issues/status of each guest to other team members and volunteers
- establishing, conducting and overseeing the ending of a stay process, e.g. 'goodbye letter', follow-up and onward referral
- ensuring befriending volunteer compliance with all operational systems, and procedures, eg. confidentiality, safeguarding
- conversant with resources for onward referral or guests' self-referral after leaving
- making follow-up calls as per model

Sharing some of:

- sustaining collaborative relationships with referring organisations
- sustaining collaborative relationships with on-ward referral organisations
- active in devising and delivering training to befriending volunteers
- active in ad hoc managing of rota
- facilitating volunteer group supervision sessions
- participating in presentations to donors and other audiences

Ideal Candidate:

Experience:

- qualification/training and/or significant volunteer experience in mental health,
- some direct experience of working with or being with the suicidal
- conversant with current best practice, e.g. safeguarding
- some familiarity with psychoanalytic concepts and understanding of suicidality.
- familiar with external supervision and learning
- familiar and competent preparing and making presentations to multiple audiences

Person spec:

- personal values that mirror those of Maytree; self-reflective
- inbuilt relational qualities of containment, compassion, empathy, warmth, trust
- robust, calm, resilient under pressure, in holding risk, in recommending action and in guiding others
- communicates with commitment and passion
- creative in ideas for change, improvements
- a team player with leadership potential
- insightful to own and others' vulnerabilities and needs for self-care, and for career development
- offers flexibility as to time/hours in response to operational setbacks or high stress amongst staff and volunteers.

If this opportunity is of interest to you or someone you may know, please contact:

Michael Knight – 07890337604 / maytree@maytree.org.uk