Volunteer Counsellor (within drug & alcohol service)

**Principal Functions:**

To deliver brief counselling (12 sessions) to clients with both drug and alcohol issues and to deliver Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET) sessions to similar clients.

**Task and activities to be undertaken:**

* To deliver minimum of 3 sessions of counselling per week, undertaking flexible contracts with clients with drug and alcohol issues from 1-12 sessions.
* To attend group supervision with the Turning Point counselling co-ordinator monthly.
* To update client records on Turning Point electronic database or hand written notes with assigned forms and to keep process notes for supervision.
* To communicate information about your clients with other Turning Point team members, specifically the client’s key worker, as part of a multi-disciplinary team on a strictly “need to know” basis around issues of risk.
* To attend training sessions on MET work and other training as necessary.
* To abide by the arrangements as set out in our Volunteer Agreement

**Who the volunteer reports to:**

* The Volunteer Counsellor will report directly to the Counselling Co-ordinator based at the same hub as the Volunteer. The Counselling Co-ordinator will be also be available for informal, ad-hoc support and is available 5 days per week.
* Clinical/counselling supervision is provided by Counselling Co-ordinator. This will take place monthly and is a mandatory requirement of the placement.

**Location and work hours:**

* Volunteers can choose to see counselling clients in one of our base at Lantern Hall in Croydon and opening hours are from 9am to 5pm
* We also currently offer some evening counselling on Tuesday and Thursday till 6:30pm.
* Group supervision provided once a month. If required - 1-1 can be arranged.
* It may be possible to see your clients and attend group supervision on the same day, but we cannot guarantee this.

**How the role fits into the work of the organisation:**

The counselling provision is part of a set of psycho-social interventions which we offer to drug and alcohol clients, as part of a stepped care approach. This means that some clients will receive briefer interventions, such as regular key working sessions, self-help packages and MET. Other clients, who show readiness to change or have higher needs, will receive high-intensity interventions like group work, CBT, and counselling.

**About the counselling provision at Turning Point Croydon:**

* Volunteer counsellors are based at Lantern Hall and see 3 clients per week. Currently due to CORVID – volunteers are working from home with devices supplied from Turning Point. This will continue until further notice.
* Clients get referred to counselling by their drug and alcohol key worker and are assessed by the counselling co-ordinator.
* At Turning Point, this involves contracting with clients for 4 sessions over 12 weeks and offering them counselling using the MET model. Volunteers will receive full training in this model and your hours will count towards your training hours.
* Group Supervision is provided free, by the counselling co-ordinator, no more than 4 volunteers. Supervision is a mandatory requirement of continuing your placement. Due to CORVID restrictions supervision is delivered through Teams.

**Deciding if this is right for you:**

This is an ideal opportunity for someone who may have an understanding of counselling within substance misuse to contribute to helping clients recover. Ideally you will be studying on a counselling diploma or above and have previous experience of offering counselling contracts to clients within an organisation; this may have been paid or voluntary. You will also be a student or full member of BACP or equivalent and will abide by their ethical framework for good practice in counselling and psychotherapy

Turning Point offer placements on a volunteer, unpaid basis to support career development.