

Staff Pastoral Support Volunteer Role Brief



The aim of the role:

As a pastoral support volunteer, you will provide a safe and non-judgmental space for staff, which will help to promote their mental health and wellbeing. You will be supporting clinical staff, who work on the bedded unit and in the community. This role offers the opportunity to be part of a committed professional team and make a genuine contribution to the wellbeing of the staff who are supporting patients under the care of North Devon Hospice.

This role would be suitable for those with a background in chaplaincy, counselling, pastoral care, or anyone with knowledge and understanding of the spiritual care needs within the palliative care environment.

What's involved?

You will support staff either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups, depending on their needs, by providing regular weekly sessions lasting up to two or three hours. In this role, you will help staff explore their thoughts and feelings around work-related issues, including the emotional impact of death and caring for individuals who are dying. A strong understanding of confidentiality, safeguarding, and professional boundaries is essential, alongside a working knowledge of the BACP ethical framework. You will be expected to carry out your role in line with the hospice's policies and procedures. You will be required to participate in monthly peer supervision alongside our supportive care team and volunteer counsellors.

Hours required:

Our aim is to provide staff with access to support three times a week. The expectation would be up to three hours per attendance therefore, we require a commitment to offer a minimum of three hours per week.

What the hospice offers:

- A safe and supportive environment and you will be part of a dedicated and friendly team
- An induction and guidance given on aspects of the role
- An insight into palliative care and how this can affect people's lives
- The opportunity to utilise existing skills or develop and learn new skills
- Regular social events throughout the year to meet other volunteers and staff across the organisation and to thank you for your contribution
- Long Service Recognition Awards for our volunteers
- The knowledge you are directly contributing to the care & support offered to our patients, and the families, we care for
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses, once agreed in advance

What you can offer us:

- Excellent communication and listening skills with an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds
- A background in counselling, social work or faith-based practice is desirable
- An understanding of the emotional impact of death, bereavement & loss
- A flexible, mature and compassionate manner with the ability to remain calm in emotionally charged situations
- A friendly, approachable and non-judgemental manner with the ability to reflect on one's own practice
- The ability to maintain confidentiality and to adhere to all NDH policies and procedures, particularly to maintaining professional boundaries
- The ability to actively participate in hospice risk management process to help safeguard the welfare of patients, visitors, volunteers and staff
- An awareness of own strengths and limitations
- A willingness to follow NDH policies and guidelines
- An agreement to follow all safety and infection control measures, including wearing PPE as required and excellent personal hygiene

The role brief may require adaptations as the need arises

Please note: *an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check is required for this role. The hospice applies and pays for this on your behalf.*