



NORTH SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

We are looking for a compassionate and skilled Domestic Abuse Housing Outreach Worker to provide specialist support, advocacy, and outreach services to clients for whom housing, and risk of tenancy breakdown is a factor in Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, and Spelthorne. In this role, you will empower clients by offering emotional and practical support, safety planning, risk assessments, and guidance on accessing key services, such as legal aid, housing, and benefits.

If you are passionate about supporting survivors and committed to making a difference, we would love to hear from you. We are seeking a dedicated and approachable individual with knowledge of housing legislation, local authority housing duties and preferably a background in housing and homelessness, along with experience of working with victims of domestic abuse.

Please note: This post is restricted to female applicants in accordance with Schedule 9 (part 1) of the Equality Act 2010

JOB DESCRIPTION

POST TITLE	Housing IDVA / Domestic Abuse Housing Outreach Worker
DAYS / HOURS	25 to 35 hours per week, working pattern to be agreed over 4 or 5 day week.
SALARY	£27,300 per annum for 35 hours per week, pro rata for part time hours (increasing up to £29,000 for qualified IDVA)
DURATION	12 Month Contract
REPORTS TO	Outreach Team Leader
LOCATION	Walton-on-Thames office
HOLIDAY & PENSION	20 days holiday per annum plus paid Bank Holidays, increasing with each full year of service up to 30 days and option of enrolment in pension scheme

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

The post holder is accountable to and will be supervised by the Outreach Team Leader and work in partnership with the other Triage and Outreach workers.

2. KEY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The key purpose of the role is to provide a domestic abuse outreach service for the boroughs of Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell and Spelthorne, with a focus on establishing positive, proactive and innovative working relationships with housing services and partner agencies in these areas.

Direct Work with clients

- Work with housing service providers and local authorities to ensure they identify domestic abuse, respond appropriately and work with our service to find housing solutions for clients.
- Advise survivors of their housing rights and options for seeking help and support from other agencies, including their housing provider.
- Working with clients and the police to identify and put into place safety measures within the home.
- To contact clients using sensitive listening and questioning skills to allow clients to explain their situation and empower them to set their own priorities.
- To provide skilled practical help, advice and emotional support to enable clients to reach an informed decision regarding their future, following a recognised support framework.
- To enable and encourage clients to take advantage of all services relevant to their problems such as legal and financial advice, housing and benefits rights, education, medical treatment, safety advice etc. and make appropriate referrals.
- To assist clients where necessary by negotiating, drafting or writing letters and telephoning.
- To negotiate with third parties, including statutory and non-statutory organisations as required.
- To accompany clients to meetings with agencies and courts if needed and act as their advocate.
- To be mindful of the impact of any client's children witnessing domestic abuse and of the associated child protection issues.
- To help reduce client's isolation and encourage them back into the community.
- To seek opportunities for clients to access group work and to deliver group work as appropriate.
- To attend Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Domestic Abuse Disclose Scheme meetings.
- To assess clients for referral to the North Surrey Sanctuary Scheme.

- Understanding of Safeguarding Framework and procedures both for Vulnerable Adults and Child Protection.

Administration

- To maintain relevant casework records on clients for the purpose of continuity of casework, information retrieval, statistical monitoring and report preparation and ensuring such records are kept up to date and in accordance with the Data Protection Act.
- To maintain records to fulfil monitoring requirements of funders
- To undertake letter writing as appropriate

Other duties and responsibilities

- To uphold the aims and principles of the NSDAS.
- To keep up to date with policies and procedures relevant to bureau work and undertake relevant training within guidelines issued by NSDAS.
- To uphold and work within the principles of the Surrey Multi Agency Strategy against Domestic Abuse.
- To provide advice and information to other organisations and take part in Domestic Abuse awareness raising events.
- To liaise with other organisations and agencies where there is a joint or multiple approach to a client and be aware that inter-agency co-operation is an integral and essential facet of outreach work.
- To abide by health and safety procedures in accordance with Health & Safety legislation.
- To work closely with the other Outreach Workers/IDVAs.
- To understand and adhere to Safeguarding Policies and procedures.
- Answer calls, facilitate meetings and be on a rota to support the charity as needed.
- Any other duties as required to ensure the efficient provision of the outreach service.

Professional Support and Development

- To keep up to date with legislation, case law and policies and procedures and undertake appropriate training relevant to your role.
- To prepare for and attend supervision sessions as required.
- To attend team meetings.
- To attend all relevant training as required including specialist domestic abuse/gender violence training.

Requirements and Skills

- Knowledge of the issues facing people experiencing domestic abuse.

- Knowledge of housing legislation, tenancy law, local authority housing duties and homelessness.
- Recent experience of advice work which could be within any housing, voluntary or statutory organisation.
- Ability to plan and prioritise own work, meet deadlines and manage caseload.
- Experience of supporting victims of domestic abuse and evaluating risk factors.
- Ability to give and receive feedback objectively and sensitively and a willingness to challenge constructively.
- Effective written and oral communication skills with particular emphasis on negotiating.
- Ability to use IT in the provision of advice, compilation of statistical data and preparation of reports.
- Flexible approach, ability to work on own initiative but also ability to work as part of a team.
- Numeracy skills.
- An awareness of the importance of confidentiality.
- The ability to listen, to communicate and to be non-judgemental
- To demonstrate a commitment to equality and diversity.
- To be able to work effectively with a range of different statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and individuals.
- To demonstrate understanding of safeguarding issues.
- To have a full driving license and use of a car and ability to meet clients in the Boroughs of Epsom and Ewell, Elmbridge and Spelthorne,
- To be qualified as a domestic abuse IDVA or willing to train to achieve this qualification.

We recognise the positive value of diversity, promoting equality and fairness, and challenging discrimination. We welcome our legal duties not to discriminate as a service provider and an employer. We aim to go beyond the narrow scope of legislative compliance and follow best practice, making equality, fairness and diversity a fundamental part of all our activities. We recognise people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions, and we wish to encourage and harness these differences to make our services more relevant and approachable.