

Volunteer Counsellor

Our core mission is to improve the lives of anyone affected by cancer, including those with a diagnosis, carers, family members and bereaved relatives, by enhancing emotional, psychological and physical well-being.

The Mulberry Centre is an award-winning charity which relies heavily on donations from individuals and organisations to support people through their cancer journey from diagnosis, through treatment and then post-discharge. We help them to start rebuilding their lives and promote self-management. We also support carers and family members to deal with these changes and bereaved relatives. We do this by providing counselling, complementary therapies, wellbeing classes, and supporting information, tailored to the needs of our users at, and around, our purpose-built centre in Isleworth. Our services are free of charge, but donations are always welcome.

The Mulberry Centre offers one-to-one person-centred counselling to individuals affected by cancer (patients, carers and bereaved). We offer seven sessions to cancer patients, carers and anyone who has been bereaved.

Time commitment Half a day per week or up to 3 clients, face to face or remotely, external supervision and regular attendance at team meetings.

Volunteer Specification

- Must be in, or have completed, a BACP or equivalent accredited course.
- A minimum of 60 hours of 1 to 1 counselling hours are required and the support of the training organisation to start client work.
- Personal liability cover, enhanced DBS and membership of a professional body for counselling and psychotherapy is required.
- Due to the nature of our work we require candidates not to have had personal experience of cancer either themselves or a close family member or been bereaved within the preceding two years.
- All counsellors need to be willing to attend in-house supervision when provided by us.
- All counsellors wishing to work remotely need to have their own paid-for Zoom account that they can use for sessions.

Support and Training

- You will be provided with an induction covering the objective of the role, the work of The Mulberry Centre, and its procedures and policies relevant for your volunteering role.
- We will do our best to assist your volunteering role with us. This will include evaluation sessions and keeping you updated with all the relevant information on what support The Mulberry Centre offers.
- There will be an initial 3 months, then annual review with your Lead, as a way of compassionately monitoring and supporting the volunteer's progress. These are of an informal and confidential nature.

- Expenses are reimbursed for travel incurred to carry out your volunteering duties. The reimbursement of any other 'out of pocket' expenses is subject to prior approval by your Lead.
- Counsellors are encouraged to be in personal counselling/therapy and to commit to ongoing professional development within a related area of work.
- Volunteer counsellors either in training or qualified, will be required to attend supervision for their work at The Mulberry Centre and will be offered internal group supervision. In addition, you will need to have your own private supervision arrangements that supplement the group supervision provided by The Mulberry Centre.
- Training provided by The Mulberry Centre and attendance at team meetings are required.

Next Steps

- All applicants will be asked to complete a Volunteer Application Form and confidentiality agreement and provide two referees to their Lead which will be shared with the Mulberry Macmillan Volunteer Lead (MMVL).
- Candidates with the appropriate experience and skills for the role for which they have applied will be interviewed by the lead associated to the role.
- References will be taken up on successful candidates. Successful counsellor and therapist candidates will be asked to provide relevant professional documentation including qualifications/certificate to practise, enhanced DBS, membership of professional body and insurance.
- All new volunteers will be given role specific induction/training by their Lead and the Mulberry Macmillan Volunteer Lead (MMVL) will provide them with a general induction to the Centre, the general handbook and relevant information pertaining to policies and procedures. New volunteers will be asked to sign the Volunteer Agreement, confirming their commitment to the Centre. Counsellors and Complementary Therapist volunteers will also need to undertake a separate appropriate therapeutic induction.
- Subject to satisfactory references, and completion of professional documentation, the individual may start volunteering and a review will be carried out by their Lead after three months.

Further information Email: volunteer@themulberrycentre.co.uk

Responsible to: Counselling Lead