

***The Sahara project is a support service for Black Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women in Manchester who are rebuilding their lives after experiencing domestic abuse. It is run by Home-Start Manchester in partnership with The Pankhurst Trust Inc. Manchester Women’s Aid.***

***We are looking for volunteers to visit families in their own homes to offer friendship, practical advice and help to access services/community support to a family on an ongoing basis (the average length of support is 6 months but we ask for a minimum 12 month commitment).***

***You will need to attend a six week training course and be able to complete additional safeguarding training annually. Acceptance onto the course is subject to completion of a successful interview and applicants are subject to an Enhanced DBS check and must provide details of 2 references. You must be willing to spend around 2/3 hours per week with your family after training. Above all, Sahara volunteers are able to listen with understanding, maintain confidentiality and are committed to the scheme and the families they visit. You should have a good understanding of how domestic abuse impacts families, relationships and the wider community.***

***In return, we will provide you with on-going support, regular supervision sessions, on-going training and out of pocket expenses. After 6 months of volunteering we are also able to provide you with a reference.***

***If you believe this is for you, then please fill out the following application form and return to*** ***info@homestartmcr.org.uk***

**ABOUT YOU**

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| **Name** | **Male / Female** |
| **Current Address including postcode** | **E-mail:** |
| **Tel No:** |
| **Mobile No:** |
| **Ethnic Origin:** | **Nationality:** | **Date of birth:** |
| **Languages Spoken:** |
| **How did you hear about the Sahara project?** |
| **Do you hold a current DBS that has been registered with the update service? YES / NO** |
| **Will you be using a car to visit families? YES/NO** |

**REFERENCES: Please provide details of two people (not a relative) who have known you for at least two years who may be contacted to provide us with a reference – please make sure they are happy to provide a reference for you before you give their details. If you have a current or previous employer or volunteer coordinator we would like you to include them as a referee.**

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| **Referee 1** | **Referee 2** |
| **Name:****Address:****E-Mail:** | **Name:****Address:****E-Mail:** |
| **Relationship: e.g. previous employer** | **Relationship: e.g. previous employer** |

**WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SAHARA HOME-START VOLUNTEER?**

**Tick as many as you like**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reason | Tick | Reason | Tick |
| **To use existing skills** |  | **To help others** |  |
| **Due to personal experience of dom abuse** |  | **To give back to the community** |  |
| **As a placement for college / university** |  | **To have fun** |  |
| **To support BAME women in Manchester** |  | **To make new friends** |  |
| **To build a new skill** |  | **To gain ‘work’ experience** |  |
| **To help me get a job / for my CV** |  | **To build my self esteem** |  |
| **To feel useful** |  | **To get recognition** |  |

**YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

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| **Tell us about any jobs or volunteering you have done. Don’t worry if your experience is limited!** |
| **Please give information about your parenting or child care experience e.g. are you a parent / step-parent / foster carer or do have experience as a professional? What ages are your children? What have you found enjoyable or challenging about being a parent/caring for children?** |
| **Have you any commitments that may affect your volunteering with the Sahara? E.g. part time work, study,** **caring for relatives etc.** |
| **What are your hobbies and leisure interests?** |
| **Have you any skills or personal experiences which may be relevant to your work as a volunteer for Sahara?** **Please include any details of support you have given to others and what you feel you could offer the families****Sahara supports:** |
| **Have you had personal or professional experience of domestic abuse? What is your understanding of how** **domestic abuse impacts families and society?** |

**Sahara volunteers are in a position of trust, visiting families in their own homes and having contact with children and vulnerable adults. Home-Start and Women’s Aid have a responsibility to ensure that no one becomes a volunteer who would misuse this trust. Therefore, it is essential that you complete and sign this form. All information provided will be kept confidential.**

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| NAME: |
| Have you had any contact with Children’s Services / Social Services in connection with children in your care?  | YES / NO |
| Do you have a disability or health condition that may impact your ability to volunteer? | YES / NO |
| Have you ever been dismissed from any paid or voluntary work? | YES / NO |
| Have you ever been convicted of or received a caution for any criminal offence? | YES / NO |
| Are there any matters outstanding which may lead to a criminal prosecution? | YES / NO |
| If you have answered yes to any question above please provide further details below: |

**A criminal conviction may not necessarily exclude you from becoming a volunteer for Home-Start, however, certain offences are so serious that in the light of the nature of our work, you would normally be unable to volunteer. These can include: offences against a person or children; sex offences; benefit fraud; theft when in a position of trust; offences when weapons were used; supplying drugs; offences involving violence; serious motoring offences involving imprisonment; burglary; arson with intent to endanger life.**

**If a criminal conviction is declared above, the Trustees will assess the details (which are anonymised) to determine whether or not your application can proceed.  They shall assess the risk to children, vulnerable adults, families and Home-Start and consider if steps can be taken to minimise the risk. It is acknowledged that if a risk cannot be sensibly and effectively managed, the ex-offender cannot be involved with Home-Start.**

**Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position will lead to you being deemed as unsuitable to volunteer.**

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| **I give permission for Home-Start to check the progression of my DBS application using the online tracker. Once it has been issued to me I give Home-Start permission to register the DBS online on my behalf and use the online system to re-check the DBS every 3 years for the duration of my volunteering activity. I understand that when I leave Home-Start my online DBS record will not be accessed by Home-Start.** **I understand that Home-Start holds my personal information in relation to this application in both hard and electronic copy and that this may be used for monitoring purposes. I agree to this information being held and understand it may be shared with Home-Start UK for Quality Assurance purposes.** **I know of no reason why I would be unsuitable to be a Home-Start volunteer and will report anything which I feel may affect my work as a volunteer to a representative of the scheme.****I understand that I may ask to see my records at any time or withdraw this permission by putting my request in writing to the Scheme Manager.****Signed:…………………………………………………… Print Name:………………………………………………….. Date:……………………………..** |