



Project Information – Cumbria Harm Minimisation Service

Name & address of Project:

Cumbria Harm Minimisation Service
CRI
Carlisle Drug and Alcohol Service
113-117 Botchergate
Carlisle
CA1 1RZ

Location of voluntary work:

North Base (Carlisle Drug and Alcohol Service)

Name of contact person:

Lucy Routledge SSV/Harm Minimisation Worker
Sandra Steele - Team Manager

Contact telephone number: 01228 882299

Summary of the details and aims of the project:

Cumbria Harm Minimisation Service provides support to people actively engaged in the use of substances via open access needle exchange services both in-house and pharmacy based.

We provide clean sterile equipment for using substances and a confidential environment for used works to be returned and disposed of safely. The service also provides advice and information on a wide range of issues such as safer injecting, blood borne viruses, overdose, treatment e.t.c and signposting to a variety of local support services.

The Harm Minimisation Service is a non-judgmental service that works to advise, inform, empower, encourage and support the needs of people actively engaged in substance use.

The aim of the Harm Minimisation Service is to reduce the negative impact of substance use upon the individual and their community by promoting and encouraging safer injecting practices and the safe disposal of drug using equipment.

Roles, responsibilities and duties of volunteers:

- Directly involved in supporting people affected by substance misuse by providing information and advice.
- Spending time within our needle exchange schemes alongside project staff with the purpose of supporting the delivery of open access harm minimisation services.
- Support the engagement of service users by using/developing communication and interpersonal skills to empower, motivate and encourage people affected by substance misuse.
- Active involvement in the development of the harm minimisation service via research, evaluation and raising awareness.
- Possible evaluation of the pharmacy based needle exchange schemes in operation via observation, supporting service user evaluation and mystery shopper activities.
- Supporting and accompanying staff during 'drop in' and outreach services that are currently being developed.
- Supporting service user involvement by acting as an advocate of the harm minimisation service at service user groups and meetings.
- Use their own specialist skills to provide unique services to service users accessing the exchange.

Time commitment:

The Harm Minimisation Service operates a Monday to Friday 9-4.30pm working week and the volunteer would be expected to be able to work within these times.

The harm minimisation service is flexible with the level of commitment the volunteer is able to offer, but in line with CRI policy this will be no more than 3 days volunteering per working week.

Days:

Monday	9:00 - 16.30pm
Tuesday	9:00 - 16.30pm
Wednesday	9:00 - 16.30pm
Thursday	9:00 - 16.30pm
Friday	9:00 - 16.30pm

Skills and experience:

The volunteer should have background knowledge of substance use and the issues affecting people actively engaged in using substances.

The volunteer should have some experience/background of social care work/settings

The volunteer should have good communication skills

The volunteer should be able to remain non-judgmental and respect service user confidentiality

The volunteer should have an interest to volunteer in the substance misuse field

Additional information:

Volunteering with Cumbria Harm Minimisation Service will provide:

- Ability to gain valuable experience of working in the substance misuse field
- Ability to gain comprehension of the Harm Minimisation Approach to substance use
- Ability to be part of a continually developing service
- Opportunity to undertake an accredited CRI training programme
- Opportunity to undertake some CRI Core training courses