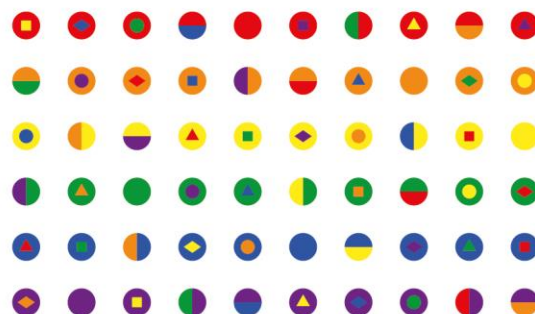


# Volunteer Role Description

## Trans Pathway Project – Cooking Assistant



### About akt

akt supports LGBTQ+ young people aged 16-25 in the UK who are facing or experiencing homelessness or living in a hostile environment.

We support young people into safe homes and employment, education or training, in a welcoming and open environment that celebrates LGBTQ+ identities.

### About the role

The Trans Pathway Project offers targeted housing support, emotional wellbeing support, peer support and youth engagement activities. We support trans young people (which includes non-binary, genderqueer and questioning young people) aged 18-25 years old. The team consists of the Project Manager, a Youth Worker, and a Floating Support Worker.

This role would be supporting the weekly youth group sessions working with our Youth Workers. There is the opportunity before the sessions start for the young people to arrive early and support the Youth Worker to prepare a meal for the group. The group session then always begins with everyone eating together and ends with everyone helping to clean up afterwards. We are looking for support with the cooking so that the Youth Workers can also be free to set up the group space and check in with young people as they arrive. There is some flexibility with the role depending on your confidence levels in the different areas, and we are keen to support volunteers to develop their confidence in the role including learning youth & community work skills.

The meals we prepare are all vegetarian (or vegan), and all take less than an hour to prepare and cook. We have some additional dietary requirements and preferences that we cater for. We aim to cook enough for everyone to have one portion to eat in group and to take one portion home with them. This currently means cooking around 15-20 portions, this could change in future based on group size. We have a budget of between £10-£15 for ingredients each week with some flexibility. We have access to a fully fitted kitchen with oven, hobs, utensils, pots & pans, and a dishwasher. Current staples of the group for example include curries, mac & cheese, tomato pasta, stew & mash, stir fry, and chilli.

### Suggested Activities

- Assist or take a lead on preparing the food for the group at the beginning of the session.
- Assist or take a lead on supporting the young people to develop their cooking skills.
- Assist or take a lead on consulting with the young people on what food they want and if they wish to lead on a recipe.
- Assist or take a lead on planning meals to meet the dietary needs of the group and within a basic budget.



- Assist or take a lead on shopping for or ordering the ingredients before the session.
- Assist or take a lead on supporting the cleaning of the kitchen and dishes.
- You would be welcome to eat with the group and support the youth work activities that happen after but this is voluntary
- To attend volunteer supervision on a regular basis

### Skills/experience required

- Ability to communicate with young people, other volunteers and members of staff
- Ability to cook basic vegetarian meals on a budget
- Basic understanding of food hygiene and safety
- Willingness to support, encourage and empower others
- Non-judgemental
- An understanding of how to maintain boundaries and keep information confidential
- An understanding of the issues that trans communities and young people face
- Some experience of working or volunteering with young people and/or vulnerable adults would be an advantage but is not essential
- Could we add something like what we have in the job descriptions e.g. an empathic approach to supporting homeless trans young people?

### What you will gain

- Experience working with young people
- Access to ongoing training and development opportunities
- Increased confidence, knowledge and experience in delivering cooking sessions
- We can offer you a reference
- Opportunity to be part of the akt team and social opportunities with other volunteers

### Time Commitment & hours preferred

There is some flexibility with the role. As a minimum we would need a commitment of 1.5 hours a week, however the is scope for this to be anywhere between 1.5 – 4 hours a week.

Below is a breakdown of the role including which parts are essential and which parts are desirable:

Time	Length	Role	Essential/ optional
3:30pm (or before)	30 mins	Shop for ingredients online or in person	Optional
4pm	60 mins	Cook a vegetarian meal for 15-20 portions with or without support from a Youth Worker and/or young people	Essential
5pm	30 mins	Clean the kitchen	Essential
5:30pm	60 mins	Join the youth group to support the activities and eat the meal together with us	Optional
6:30pm	30 mins	Make a start on collecting dishes and getting the dishwasher on	Optional
7pm	30 mins	Group finishes at 7pm. At this point there will be additional tidying up to do and then staff will do a brief check out.	Optional



In addition to the weekly commitments there will also be opportunities to engage in training, volunteer socials, planning meetings, and volunteer supervision.

Owing to the nature of the role we would require a commitment of at least 6 months.

### **Location**

The weekly group takes place in Manchester City Centre. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

### **Training & induction**

Volunteers will receive a full training package to prepare you for the role which will cover maintaining boundaries, safeguarding, and group work basics.

You'll have the opportunity to attend ongoing training sessions throughout the year relevant to the role.

### **Supervision Arrangements**

Due to the nature of the role we will check in after each group session and arrange regular supervision sessions. You can request a meeting with your role supervisor at any time.

### **Expenses**

Travel and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

### **Application Process**

Application is via an application form and an informal discussion about your skills and what you would bring to the role. You'll also be given the opportunity to meet with the group as part of the recruitment process.

An enhanced DBS check (free of charge to you) and two references are required. A criminal conviction does not necessarily stop you from volunteering with us. All decisions regarding convictions will be made on a case-by-case basis.