

BBPoC youth engagement volunteer role description

Hours: Tuesdays/Wednesdays (2-3 hours), fortnightly
Location: London

akt is committed to being an inclusive place to work and volunteer that represents the diverse communities we serve. We actively encourage applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds and with lived experience. We particularly encourage applications from Black, Brown and People of Colour, transgender and non-binary identities and disability groups. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability or age.

About Us

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. 136,000 young people in the UK are homeless. 24% of those are LGBTQ+, made homeless by rejection or abuse from family. For as long as LGBTQ+ young people are subject to hostility, exclusion and insecurity, our services will be vitally needed.

The Team

The Youth Engagement team offers a range of opportunities to young people who have accessed akt's housing service. We offer group trips, workshops, as well as working towards a Youth Conference, a Youth Panel and other exciting long-term projects. This role will support the Black, Brown and People of Colour (BBPoC) co-ordinator. This would be assisting with the BBPoC LGBTQ+ youth group in London and the national online group. However, there will also be opportunities to get involved with additional activities, events and opportunities for young people which volunteers can assist with e.g. Pride events, theatre trips etc. These are more ad-hoc and will depend on availability- they are not an expectation of the role.

Suggested Activities

- Helping to organise and plan sessions which cover a broad range of activities such as creative activities, workshops, projects, well-being sessions and hangouts
- Assist the Youth Engagement Team to engage young LGBTQ+ BBPoC in a programme of meaningful activities designed to promote well-being and

support young people to meet their personal goals e.g. welcoming young people when they arrive, assisting them to engage in the activities and helping with clearing up

- Support the meaningful engagement of young BBPoC in the co-creation of akt's services and projects
- Developing and creating resources to provide advice, support and reassurance to LGBTQ+ young BBPoC on issues and topics that matter to them most
- Co-facilitate BBPoC groups and peer support sessions with the opportunity to lead in running some activities

Skills/experience required

- Good communication skills
- Willingness to support, encourage and empower LGBTQ+ young BBPoC
- Creative and flexible
- An understanding of how to maintain boundaries, confidentiality and conflict resolution within group work/in a group setting
- An understanding of the issues that are faced by LGBTQ+ BBPoC communities and young people is desirable
- Some experience of working or volunteering with young BBPoC and/or vulnerable adults would be desirable but not essential
- The role itself will require some heavy lifting to help with setting up and packing down the session. If you have any queries, feel free to contact volunteering@akt.org.uk

What you will gain

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

Time Commitment & hours preferred

The two groups will run **on Tuesdays/Wednesdays (2-3 hrs)**. We expect these sessions to occur once fortnightly, but we ask that you have availability/flexibility

on either of these days as this may change from week to week. Volunteers will be expected to arrive early and stay behind to pack up and debrief, which would add an extra 30-45mins. Owing to the nature of the role we would require a commitment of at least 6 months.

Training, Induction and Supervision Arrangements

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. Due to the nature of the role, we will check in after each drop-in 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 via our CRM database Volunteer and an informal discussion/interview about your skills and what you would bring to the role. Interviews are expected to occur in March/April, and we will be aiming to organise this as and when we receive applications.

Deadline: Friday 3rd January

We actively promote equity of opportunity for all and welcome applications from candidates with criminal records. **This role is eligible for 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. We advise all applicants who require a DBS check how to follow the [sensitive applications route](#). This gives trans and non-binary applicants the choice not to have any gender or name information disclosed on their DBS certificate, that could reveal historical details relating to their identity.

Update Service

For candidates who are already registered on the Update Service before joining us, we can accept existing checks without having to process a new check ourselves (provided the check is at the relevant level for the role.)