

Project Worker Northamptonshire



Hope UK - Equipping Young People to make Drug-Free Choices

About Hope UK

Children and young people are at the heart of Hope UK's mission.

Our vision is for children and young people in Britain to live confident, healthy, drug-free and fulfilling lives.

Our aim is to equip children and young people throughout the United Kingdom to develop the knowledge and skills they need to make drug-free choices. We do this through direct delivery of programmes to children and young people, as well as training those with responsibility for them, parents and youth workers, for example. Young people are encouraged to get involved with our work in a variety of ways, including membership of our youth branch, Generation Hope. We also develop local networks of community-based volunteers who work directly with children and young people as well as providing training for adults.

Our staff and volunteers work with children and young people in schools and youth groups, providing interactive, age-appropriate educational sessions about alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. Our experience of working with young people shows that many still do not realise how damaging regular excessive drinking or using vapes, for example, can be. Life skills that enhance peer resistance and build confidence are woven into sessions designed to encourage healthy choices and enable children and young people to realise their potential.

As demand for our services increases, we are aiming to increase the number of trained volunteers around the UK to help meet demand. Where we have local funding, we employ a part time worker to support and develop our work in their area.



Our History

History of Hope UK

(Formerly the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union)

One of the first responses to the problems of excessive drinking in the 1800's was the formation of temperance societies. These usually had a Christian base and were initially composed of people who took a pledge to abstain from spirits and be moderate in their consumption of other alcoholic drinks. However, problems caused by excessive consumption of alcohol in society at that time were considerable and there was controversy as to whether moderate drinking of any alcoholic beverage was sufficient to tackle the problem. In 1832 the 'Seven Men of Preston' signed a pledge to totally abstain from intoxicating beverages. This was known as 'signing the pledge' The idea spread, and temperance societies sprang up all over Britain.

In August 1847 Ann Jane Carlisle was invited by Leeds Temperance Society to speak. Mrs Carlisle was an Irish lady concerned about excessive drinking amongst children and the effect that adult drinking was having on them. During her time in Leeds several children and young people showed an interest in her talks and 'signed the pledge'. It was suggested that a special temperance group to be set up for children under 16. Its aims would be to teach children about Christianity and the problems associated with drinking and to encourage them to live a healthy, alcohol-free lifestyle. In November 1847 the first meeting of this group took place in Leeds. About 300 children attended, 200 of whom 'signed the pledge' for the first time, the rest having already done so. The group became known as the 'Band of Hope'.

Other groups were starting the same kind of children's clubs and many of them took the name 'Band of Hope', together becoming the Band of Hope movement. In 1855 the UK Band of Hope Union. The Band of Hope movement embraced all sorts of activities - it produced a children's hymn book, wrote children's songs, ran and started more children's clubs (the essence of the work), held bazaars, produced booklets, leaflets, magic lantern slide shows etc., sent qualified medical men to give lectures in schools, held competitions and festivals and crowned pageant queens every year. In 1897, the Jubilee year, the estimated membership was nearly 3.5 million, Queen Victoria was patron, and several celebrations were held.

In some ways, it could be said that the success of the Band of Hope caused its own decline. As alcohol misuse became less of a problem and as legislation improved there seemed to be less need to work so fervently in this area and like many of the other social reform charities formed in Victorian times, the Band of Hope began to decline.

Recently, the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union has changed and adapted, becoming Hope UK in 1995. With the increased use of recreational drugs, Hope UK now specialises in drug education and life skills training.

About this Appointment

Hope UK has seen significant development over the past few years and is seeking to continue this work, by growing sustainable funding, improving our public profile – especially to churches – and most importantly by increasing the number of activities we do each year.

We were given funds and a building from a Northamptonshire temperance organisation – Kettering Temperance Society – to increase our work. They asked us to continue their work in Northamptonshire. Over the years we have had two successful project workers who have developed activities and a local team. However, our current project worker is also employed at a senior level in the NHS and has been for a couple of years, unable to give as much time to this role as she would have wanted. We are therefore looking for a local person to work part time to help re-develop this vital work in Northamptonshire, starting ideally in the Kettering area.

Job Description Project Worker (Northamptonshire)

Accountable to:	CEO
Based at:	Gold Street office, although can be home based. However this role will include travel – mainly in Northamptonshire but occasionally outside the county – for example to help other areas, or attend our annual event in Hertfordshire.
Hours of work:	Flexible, average 10 hours per week
Salary:	£13.00 per hour
Annual Leave:	Paid holiday will be calculated at the end of each year of employment pro rata (i.e. according to hours worked) to the holiday entitlement of full-time staff and the appropriate amount of paid leave allocated

Summary of Duties

Project Workers are the local or regional face of Hope UK. As such, the job can be very varied. The description below is to give a guideline of the kind of things a project worker might do. It can be viewed as a process, rather than a day-to-day list! The primary responsibility of this post will be to further the work of Hope UK in Northamptonshire - Kettering in particular - through developing (recruiting, training and motivating) the volunteer base and affiliated group, getting support from local churches, and promoting our work to relevant organisations.

Northamptonshire is a large area, and we would expect the project worker to focus on smaller areas – ideally starting with Kettering. We have had a small volunteer team in Northamptonshire, but this has declined since the pandemic, and needs to be renewed.

The role of the Northamptonshire Project Worker will include:

1. Recruiting & supporting volunteers in Northamptonshire
2. Helping to train volunteers in Northamptonshire
3. Developing Hope UK Northamptonshire – an affiliated local group
4. Helping develop opportunities for volunteers in Northamptonshire

5. Helping develop financial and prayer support for the work of Hope UK Northamptonshire, visiting churches and Christian organisations to represent Hope UK and take part in worship services as appropriate.
6. Training as a Hope UK Drug Educator and provide relevant Hope UK sessions to groups in Northamptonshire, including Christian teaching for churches and Christian organisations.
7. Working with local staff and volunteers to organise events based in our building in Kettering.
8. Assisting with the Hope UK conference
9. Processing and delivering local bookings (liaising with the administrators)
10. General Administration and record keeping

Hope UK is a drug education and prevention charity with a Christian foundation working for children and young people. This includes the promotion of alcohol and drug-free options. Our staff and voluntary Drug Educators are therefore Christians who have chosen lifestyles free from the use of alcohol and recreational drugs. Our CEO, Sarah Brighton, is happy to talk this through with any prospective applicant.

The duties of this post will include representing the Christian ethos of the organisation. Because of this, there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (under the terms of the relevant employment regulations) that the post-holder be a Christian.

Person Specification: Project Worker (Northamptonshire)

Education	Essential or Desirable
1. Educated to A level standard or equivalent (Or already completed the Hope UK Educator training programme.)	E
2. Youth Work qualification or similar	D
Experience	
3. Worked or volunteered in a community-based role	D
4. Worked or volunteered with children or young people	D
5. Previous experience of starting a project or similar	D
Skills/Abilities	
6. Good interpersonal skills – for example, in networking	E
7. Good communication skills	E
8. Able to motivate others	D
9. Ability to work unsupervised, use initiative and take responsibility for tasks	E
10. Ability to demonstrate a methodical, organised and flexible approach to work.	E
11. Able to work as part of a team and on own initiative.	E
12. Ability to plan, organise and prioritise workload to meet deadlines.	E
13. Ability to remain calm under pressure.	E
Personal Qualities	
14. A clear commitment to the Christian faith	E
15. Drug Free (including legal substances but not medicines)	E
16. Able to work flexibly when necessary (for example at weekends) and able to be away from home when needed	E
17. Able to travel within the UK (occasionally)	E
18. An understanding of the charity/voluntary sector	D



Terms & conditions and How to Apply

Type:	One-year contract initially, with three-month probation
Hours:	Part-time – 7 hours per week, flexible.
Location:	Office based in Kettering (and can be some home based) with some travel
Closing date:	31 August 2024
Interview date:	Week commencing 9 September 2024

To apply, send in your CV with a covering letter explaining why you would like the role and how you meet the requirements.

If you would like an informal chat about this role, please contact Sarah on 020 7928 0848

All applicants must be committed to the aims, ethos and values of Hope UK.

This post is subject to an Occupational Requirement that the post holder is a committed evangelical Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.

Applications to:

enquiries@hopeuk.org

Recruitment
Hope UK
50 Gold Street
Kettering
NN16 8JB