



We are looking for 3 Sleepsafe Night Support Workers

The churches behind BCARS are building a passionate, Christ-centred and talented team for Sleepsafe 2017-18

Could you help to bring God's hope and love in word and deed to those wanting to get off the street?

In 2016-17, 9 churches opened their doors to 80 rough sleepers: all of them had the chance of space to sleep, talk and make plans; 47 of them found more secure accommodation and there were many amazing conversations.

We need some special people to help with this winter's Sleepsafe as the churches continue to develop their support for rough sleepers. You will:

- Be excellent at engaging well not only with those who are coming off the street, but also with other volunteers and partners;*
- But you'll also be wise and astute in how you deal with issues each night, balancing both grace and challenge;*
- And you will want to create a positive atmosphere where "guests" feel safe and encouraged in their new journey off the street... including the willingness to organise prayer with people if they want that.*

The Job Description and Person Spec for these posts is enclosed

If you would like to help us support people in crisis in this way, contact the Faithworks Wessex office on 01202 429037, or by emailing davidc@faithworkswessex.org.uk

Application will be by CV and covering letter describing why you want the post and your key attributes. Please give the names and contact details of 2 people able to give references (one of whom is a leader in your local church).

**Closing date for receipt of applications is noon on 5pm on
Tuesday 24th October, 2017**

Probable interview date – 26th or 27th October

BCARS (Bournemouth Christians Alongside Rough Sleepers) was formed in 2015 in response to the growing numbers of rough sleepers in the town and a desire to work together across the Christian community and with voluntary and statutory partners to "help people get off the street, stay off the street and live life to the full"; it is supported by Faithworks Wessex, a local Christian charity (charity no. 1108714)

Post title: **Sleepsafe Night support worker**
Hours: 11 hour shifts (21.00 to 08.00) on a rota basis
Contract: 4.5 months (November to mid-March)
Salary: £12.50 per hour
Line Manager: Homelessness worker, Faithworks Wessex
Strategic reporting: BCARS Steering Group

What is this project about?

This year, the churches behind BCARS are seeking to employ 3 Christian support workers to take it in turns to provide overnight cover every night of Sleepsafe (alongside a volunteer). This will require someone who has experience of working with vulnerable adults, and preferably experience of drug & alcohol and/or mental health. But we are also looking for someone who can relate brilliantly to both “guests” and volunteers, and who is “always ready to give a reason for the [Christian] hope that is within them”.

Job purpose?

Provide night cover as required by the service and work with volunteers and staff to provide a safe and secure environment for guests.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Work with the church venue and local volunteers on the shift to ensure a safe and secure environment for Sleepsafe guests to sleep each night
2. Ensure that all activities are carried out in a safe and sustainable manner for staff, volunteers and clients, implementing in a professional way, the BCARS safety and safeguarding procedures (inc. building risk assessments). Ensure the Sleepsafe venue is fully compliant with all Health and Safety regulations at all times including accurate recording of incidents, damage and danger, and management of links with police
3. Control the entry to the venue front entrance welcome desk, ensuring only those on the guest list are admitted and providing emergency needs & risks assessments as required for unlisted but needy service users
4. Ensure the rules of the Licence agreement are enforced, taking suitable action where “guests” will not follow these rules
5. Report any repairs or faults to local Sleepsafe champion (or direct to church)
6. Take responsibility to call emergency services if required, and for any evacuation / alarm activation
7. Record details of each shift and communicate liaise effectively with other team members so that hand-over is smooth and issues are followed up
8. Set the tone for the venue by exhibiting behaviours that fit the BCARS ethos, and by being willing to talk about practical and spiritual help to any who need it. Lead prayers with any Christian volunteers at the start of each session
9. Ensure guests are working to their individual agreed plans (as agreed during their initial referral discussion)
10. Any other duties that are commensurate with the role or as requested by the homelessness worker of Faithworks Wessex in consultation with the BCARS Steering Group

Person specification: Skills, competences and experience:

Essential experience and skills:

- Sound appreciation of the needs of those in crisis, and some experience of responding to such needs with care and sensitivity
- Experience of leading a project team to deliver a successful outcome, including clear evidence of prioritising and planning the work that needs to be done
- Experience of working successfully with volunteers or helping to organise unpaid groups of people to achieve a common task
- The ability to support people who display challenging behaviour including verbal aggression
- Excellent communication skills both externally in order to inspire and develop partnerships, and internally in order to get the best out of team members

Desirable experience and skills:

- Evidence of Health & Safety and/or First Aid training/competence
- Experience of working with those facing personal crisis or difficulty
- Experience of working with ex-offenders, people in addiction or with mental health issues
- A clean/valid Driving Licence and own transport,
- ICT and PC skills in relation to MS Office programs
- Knowledge of DDA working environment requirements

GOR – This is an initiative of the churches in Bournemouth – the post holder will therefore need to be able to provide spiritual as well as practical support to individuals who come to Sleepsafe; they will also need to lead prayer at the start of each session as appropriate. We consider there is therefore a **Genuine Occupational Requirement** for the post holder to be a practicing Christian. Please refer to the BCARS Ethos and Values Statement.

Key personal characteristics required:-

- A committed Christian in agreement with basic tenets and the Christian values of BCARS
- Passionate about helping those in need in the community with practical, emotional and spiritual support
- Outgoing personality, a friendly yet efficient style and the ability to establish a rapid rapport with people
- Able to model a high standard of integrity to volunteers, referrers and clients
- A self-starter – can take initiative; but also a willingness to learn new skills as systems and needs develop
- Flexible and always thinking about ways to improve the service
- Willing to work flexibly (bank holidays and weekends)

Please note that as this role will include working with vulnerable adults, anyone applying for a role which involves a regulated activity and certain controlled activity will require a criminal records check from the Disclosure & Barring Service