



Volunteer Host – Dorset Nightstop

At Action for Children, our vision is that every child and young person in this country has a safe and happy childhood. We provide children and young people with a safe, private room for the night in the house of a trained and vetted volunteer. Although Dorset Nightstop has been running since 2009, we have just had our busiest year, working with a total of 93 young people and providing 292 safe bed nights. This increase in young people who've found themselves homeless is the reason we are looking to recruit new volunteers who can occasionally provide a spare room for young people at a difficult time.

Young people are referred through local agencies and councils, and we run a police check and a thorough risk assessment to ensure they are suitable for the service. Guests stay on a night by night basis, and will receive ongoing support from a Nightstop worker to find long-term, stable accommodation.

A recent young person we helped told us that Dorset Nightstop saved his life, adding "There's not a chance I would be where I am now without Nightstop's support." So by joining us, you could be making a huge difference to a vulnerable young person's life.

What do we look for in hosts?

- You're living in either the Dorset or BCP area
- You have a spare, private room that you are able to offer up occasionally at short notice
- You understand the importance of working to Nightstop's policies and procedures, particularly around Child Protection and Confidentiality
- You're able to set suitable and appropriate boundaries
- You're non-judgmental and understanding of people's different circumstances
- You're willing to listen
- You have a good sense of humour and an approachable nature

What do hosts do?

- Provide guests with a clean, safe and private room
- Provide guests with an evening meal and breakfast, and a packed lunch, if needed
- Liaise with Nightstop staff regarding availability and to provide regular feedback after each placement
- Maintain professional boundaries with Nightstop guests and prioritise their safety and wellbeing
- Participate in training and supervision

What are our benefits?

- You'll be a part of a collaborative, like-minded and supportive community who's passionate about supporting young people and children.
- You'll get ongoing feedback and supervision.
- You'll also get initial, as well as ongoing, training to make sure you're supported in your role. This includes extensive safeguarding training, guest speakers from professional agencies, and access to a learning portal. We use volunteer feedback to create our sessions.
- All expenses are paid. We pay a rate of £17.50 per night to make sure expenses for food, washing the bed, use of washing facilities etc are covered. Any additional costs will also be paid back.
- There is no minimum requirement of nights that we expect hosts to do. Hosts upload their availability to a portal and will only be contacted if they are available.
- There is a 24/7 on-call system to make sure hosts are supported consistently. You will also get daily check-in calls while hosting.
- You'll have the opportunity to complete first aid training and get an official first aid certificate. The cost is paid for by Dorset Nightstop.
- You have access to the Action for Children careers portal to apply for paid roles.
- You have access to a discount and rewards portal which includes hundreds of brands, like National Trust, Costa, Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Airbnb and many more.
- You'll be invited to appreciation events to recognise the important work of volunteers, such as our Stephenson Awards

At Action for Children, we're dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive, and authentic workplace. We actively encourage applications from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic, and disabled candidates as they are under-represented within Action for Children. We want to take deliberate and purposeful action to ensure equal opportunity to all groups in society and for Action for Children.

Although we will need you to complete a DBS check, we are committed to providing opportunities to people with a range of backgrounds, and will consider each candidate on a case by case basis.

Contact us at:

vickie.wais@actionforchildren.org.uk, or call on 07779029292.

The link to our application form is:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/EnterpriseGvi?enterpriseGuid=4d0f4478-2856-44db-8783-2403b6f7f5ec&gviGuid=6af56d2c-0271-4380-9989-87050c5a8608&searchUrl=https%253a%252f%252fapp.betterimpact.com%252fPublicEnterprise%252fEnterpriseSearch%253fEnterpriseGuid%253d4d0f4478-2856-44db-8783-2403b6f7f5ec%2526SearchType%253dCommunityClassification%2526SearchId%253d573>