

Mentor role description

Time Commitment: 1 hour weekly/bi-weekly (between 10-6 pm)

Location: Manchester and/or Remote (Digital Mentoring)

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.

The Role

As a mentor, you will work one-on-one with LGBTQ+ young people who are our service users to provide guidance and offer encouragement, and a safe space to explore their goals. You'll help them to build confidence, overcome challenges and take steps towards independence.

Mentoring might involve:

- Supporting someone during the coming out process
- Providing advice on housing, employment, or education
- Helping with budgeting and financial planning
- Simply being a listening ear during difficult times

Please note: Due to the number of referrals varying each month, matching you with a young person may take time. We ask for your patience and encourage you to engage in training and youth engagement activities whilst waiting to be matched.

What you'll do:

- Offer 1-2-1 support (in person, via Zoom, WhatsApp, phone or email)
- Create a safe, non-judgemental environment where your mentee can be themselves

- Listen, provide emotional support, and help set and achieve personal goals
- Encourage and empower your mentee to take steps toward a fulfilling life

What we're looking for:

- Strong communication and listening skills
- A flexible, non-judgemental approach
- Ability to maintain boundaries and confidentiality
- Understanding of issues faced by LGBTQ+ young people (preferred but not essential)
- Experience working with vulnerable people (desirable)

What you will gain:

- Improved communication and active listening skills
- Increased confidence and motivation from supporting others
- Opportunities for self-reflection and personal growth
- The rewarding experience of helping someone during a critical time in their life
- A reference

Commitment required:

- **1 hour, weekly or bi-weekly**, depending on your and your mentee's schedules
- A mentoring relationship typically lasts 6+ months, and we require a 12-month commitment

Training and Support

To prepare you for the role, you'll complete:

- A recorded induction + follow up form
- Online mentoring training sessions (must attend both): **Thursday 16th and 23rd January**
- Safeguarding Training (online)
- GIRE Training (online)

Regular supervision and support will be provided throughout your time as a mentor.

Application Process

- apply via our CRM database, Volunteer
- Attend an informal chat
- Undergo an enhanced DBS Check (free of charge)
- Provide two references

Deadline: Friday 20th December. Applications will be processed as they are received.

We actively promote equity of opportunity for all and welcome applications from candidates with criminal records. 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.)