PSC46 – Student Placement Application Process

Bedfordshire Open Door provides the opportunity for students to join our counselling placement programme that is specifically tailored to provide experience in the counselling field related to young people's services. Placements are open to counsellors in training on Year 1 of the Level 4 counselling qualification, as a minimum requirement.

Our student placement project is carried out in partnership with local colleges and independent training providers and is managed and overseen by the Student Counsellor Project Lead.

Recruitment for placement is a two-stage process. During the month of October/ November students are invited through their training provider to a Tour & Talk open day at our Tavistock centre where they are given a tour of the building, introduced to key members of the team, and given a talk on what to expect as a student on placement with our service. The open day ends with a Q and A session and an invitation to make a formal application to the placement project. Once applications have been received, shortlisted candidates are invited to interview.

The interview process is carried out during December through to January. Interviews with the Student Counsellor Project Lead are 1.5 hrs duration and include a 30-minute observed role-play, followed by constructive feedback.

We will require 2 references per student, one from the training provider and an enhanced DBS check which we will carry out.

Successful candidates will commence their placement with Bedfordshire Open Door in February/March and when signed off for placement by their training provider.

Placement students must commit to regular hours to see a minimum of 3 clients per week and attendance at fortnightly supervision. We also ask our students to commit to a post qualification year of volunteering with our organisation to embed their practice and enable further training and development including assessment and working with higher risk clients.

Bedfordshire Open Door's student placement project has been commended by the BACP.

"We commend the service on the protocol described to assess students' competency when working with clients under the age of 18. This is evidence of a high standard of professional practice" (BACP Accreditation Assessor, 2019)

As a counselling service accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), Bedfordshire Open Door provide our students the opportunity to experience an accountable, ethical, professional, and responsive service to our clients, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.

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