

# Drug & Alcohol Drop In Volunteer

As a Drug & Alcohol Drop In Volunteer with Simon Community, you will play a vital role in supporting individuals navigating substance use challenges. By supporting with the facilitation of weekly support groups, you'll provide a safe, understanding space where clients can feel heard and supported. Your contribution will foster community, reduce stigma, and promote recovery for those in need.

## Key responsibilities:

- Help facilitate established weekly substance use support groups in Bangor (Tuesdays) or Portaferry (Thursdays).
- Build trust with individuals attending the support groups.
- Foster a welcoming, non-judgmental atmosphere where individuals feel respected and supported.
- Uphold Simon Community's confidentiality policies to safeguard clients' privacy and dignity.

## The skills and qualities we are looking for:

- **Empathy and Respect:** A non-judgmental attitude and the ability to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- **Communication Skills:** Strong interpersonal abilities to engage with clients and fellow volunteers.
- **Understanding of Confidentiality:** A commitment to protecting sensitive information.
- **Personal or Professional Experience:** Experience in the field of substance use is preferred but not essential—training will be provided.

## We're with you every step of the way

As a volunteer with Simon Community, you'll receive excellent support from your supervisor and our Corporate Partnerships and Volunteering Officer. Before starting, you'll complete an induction and comprehensive training, ensuring you feel confident in your role. You'll also have the opportunity to:

- Make a meaningful difference to individuals experiencing substance use challenges.
- Build skills in group facilitation, communication, and community support.
- Claim out-of-pocket expenses in line with Simon Community's Volunteer Expenses Policy.

# Drug & Alcohol Outreach Volunteer

## **Your commitment**

- Availability to facilitate weekly groups on Tuesdays (Bangor) or Thursdays (Portaferry).
- Demonstrate Simon Community's values of being non-judgmental, trustworthy, and determined.
- Attend supervision and training sessions to develop your skills.
- Operate within all Simon Community policies, including safeguarding, health and safety, and confidentiality.

## **Essential checks we will need to complete with you**

Before you begin volunteering with us, we will process some routine pre-volunteering checks. These will include an Enhanced Access NI check (free for all volunteers). You will also be asked to provide two satisfactory references. Please note that we cannot accept references from family members, or partners.

## **Ready to Apply?**

Apply online by following the link below. Please provide as much detail as possible in your application form.

If you experience any issues, contact our Growth and Engagement Team for support. Simon Community is an equal-opportunity organisation, and we encourage individuals from all backgrounds to apply.

<https://simoncommunity.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-now>

# Our volunteer application process

There are several steps in applying to volunteer with us, so we have put together a helpful guide with all the information you need to know. However, if you have a question that isn't covered, please contact us.



## **The Application Form**

Your online application is your opportunity to tell us about your experience, skills, and personality.



## **Your interview**

Interviews can be daunting for many of us. Don't worry though, we make it as relaxed as possible. The interview gives you a valuable opportunity to explore volunteering with us further and make sure it's the right fit for you. We usually complete interviews within two weeks of you applying for a role.



## **Pre-volunteering checks**

Before volunteering with us, all volunteers undertake routine safeguarding checks with including an Enhanced Access NI check and two references. We will ask you to provide proof of identity at interview and will supply you with information on documentation that can be used.



## **Training and induction**

Our pre-volunteering training is designed to help you feel confident in your role. We cover everything from Safeguarding to Professional Boundaries to how to get the most out of your volunteering experience. We also offer training at weekends to be more flexible and accessible.

Your training will also provide the perfect opportunity to meet other volunteers and staff.



## **Your volunteering with Simon Community begins**

Once all your training and checks are completed, you'll be ready to start your volunteering with us. An experience that will stay with you for a lifetime.

