**Title:** Bridge to Freedom Volunteer

**Basis:** Volunteer

**Safeguarding:** Volunteers are disclosure checked by Bethany Christian Trust.

**Responsible to:** Recovery and Resettlement Worker

**Responsible for:** Helping with the running of the Bridge to Freedom recovery groups

**Context of the role:**

Bethany provides a suite of services which support people struggling with issues of homelessness helping them to: find suitable accommodation and furnish their homes, tackle addictions, learn new skills and gain employment, develop positive social networks and become active members of their local communities. This role is part of Homelessness Prevention.

**Summary of the role:**

Bridge to Freedom is a Christian community-based recovery group for men and women aged 18 years and over who are suffering from substance addiction and are looking to establish abstinence and make positive changes in their lives. The programme’s 45 sessions cover topics such as identity, honesty, managing negative thoughts, freedom, self-esteem, forgiveness and relationships. Volunteers are required to help support the Recovery and Resettlement Worker at the groups, by providing a listening ear and encouragement, contributing to group discussion, as well as helping practically at the venue with setting up rooms and providing refreshments. Depending on experience, there may also be opportunity to help with some 1-2-1 support.

**General responsibilities:**

* Help to set up the room for use during the group and prepare refreshments. After the group has finished, the volunteer is also expected to assist in cleaning and housekeeping. For this reason a volunteer should arrive on time and give as much notice as possible if they are unable to volunteer.
* Help to make the individuals attending the group feel welcomed and comfortable, whilst also maintaining appropriate boundaries. This can be through serving food and drinks, chatting during the breaks and contributing to the group discussion.
* Signpost individuals who are seeking additional support to Bethany Christian Trust staff.
* Alert a staff member of any concerns about an individual or situation within the group
* For those engaging in 1-2-1 support, a strong Christian faith is required, ideally with lived experience of addiction or experience of working in this area.

**Important pre-requisites for the role:**

* Be 18 years old or over.
* Be a person of Christian faith, rooted in a Church community.
* Be aware of, and able to demonstrate, good confidentiality and boundaries practice.
* Be able to operate under the guidance and support of the Bethany Christian Trust staff.
* Be sociable and have an approachable manner.
* Have good time management and organisational skills.
* This role requires all attendees, including volunteers, to be vulnerable and open. Volunteers should be comfortable with this and have healthily processed any trauma or experiences that may be touched upon in such a group. This is to ensure that a) the focus remains on the clients, and b) that volunteers are able to support clients using the context of their experience.
* The role may be challenging, and so the volunteer must be patient, understanding, non-judgemental and willing to be proactive in engendering a positive environment.
* Volunteers must complete the necessary induction for this role.

**Location and Pattern of Hours:**

There are various groups at different locations. Volunteers must indicate the group they wish to join while understanding that this may not always be possible due to the current volunteer capacity. Volunteers must attend one group consistently.

Bridge to Freedom groups are 2 hours long, with an expectation that volunteers will arrive early to help set up and also clear away at the end. Weekly or fortnightly commitment is expected for a period of at least 6 months.

**Edinburgh:**

* Leith (more details on request) Mondays, 2-4pm
* City Centre (more details on request)Tuesdays, 2-4pm

**Glasgow:**

* Tuesdays, 2-4pm. Further details on request.

**Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness:**

* Details on request.