

## Counsellor Job Description

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<b>Salary:</b>	£18,400 per annum
<b>Hours:</b>	30 hours per week (4 days per week Monday - Friday between 8:30am – 4.30pm)
<b>Post:</b>	Counsellor
<b>Location:</b>	Mercy UK, Residential Home, Oxenhope
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Curriculum Manager

*Please note: This position carries an Occupational Requirement (OR) on the grounds on gender, religion and belief in keeping with current guidance. The post holder must identify as and be biologically female, and able to demonstrate a Christian belief and value system, in line with Mercy UK's core objectives and values.*

## Mercy UK Overview:

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Mercy UK is committed to restoring hope and transforming lives by empowering Christians to develop their relationship with God, self and others. We offer a wide range of services online and onsite to equip you with the tools to live free and stay free. Our services include:

- Our Mercy Home. An online and onsite free-of-charge discipleship programme for women with life-controlling issues
- Keys to Freedom. An 8-week discipleship course for group or individual study, designed to help you live free and stay free
- Training, resources, speaking engagements to educate, equip and empower you and your church

We are a registered charity (number 1111377), a company limited by guarantee (number 5373315), a member of the Evangelical Alliance, PCUK and ThirtyOneEight (formerly CCPAS).

## Overall Aim:

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Here at Mercy UK we have a passion for God, passion for people and passion for excellence – this means we are committed to becoming an organisation where team members feel supported, valued and challenged to deepen their personal and professional growth. As an agile and fast-moving team, we seek to give our very best in attitude and activity in seeing hope restored and lives transformed.

As an enthusiastic and motivated member of a skilled team, you have expertise in bringing emotional and spiritual support and guidance to the female participants of the Mercy UK Christian discipleship programme aged 18 to around 30. As part of a dynamic team, you lead those on your caseload through a bespoke healing journey, to help them identify and find freedom from the roots of any underlying causes of mental and emotional distress. They meet with you on a weekly one:one basis to work through our Choices that Bring Chance curriculum both onsite and online, where you equip them to face the challenging and often painful events of their past, educate them in applying biblical principles to their life and empower them to develop a deepening awareness of, and relationship with, God. You use your therapeutic training and trauma-sensitivity to better understand a residents' emotional and spiritual needs, bringing them the accountability and mentoring they need to confidently outwork their healing in the future.

Please be aware that, due to the nature of the role and its responsibilities, this post may require attendance to the home or to resident needs out of hours as part of a team.

## Job Description:

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### The post will include but is not limited to:

- Cultivating a positive, trauma-informed and Christ-centred approach towards improving emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing.
- Offering support, insight and creative input to residents navigating personal and emotional (and at times, traumatic) past experiences as they work through the Choices that Bring Change curriculum.
- Educating, equipping and empowering each assigned resident through the discipleship curriculum within agreed timeframes by understanding the learning preferences and needs of the resident, and empowering the resident towards consistent self-development through appropriately assigned resources and activities.
- Willingness and passion for praying with and for residents, and to invest your own faith into the healing journey of residents.
- Planning and preparing weekly one-to-one sessions for a caseload of up to 8 residents and completing all associated records and paperwork in a timely manner in order to promote strong communication and collaboration with the wider team.
- Willingness to lead as an example of healthy Christian leadership and positively influencing healthy dynamics within the home through facilitating constructive and healthy reflection of Christian teachings, Bible reading, personal devotion time, leading class or praise & worship times, demonstrating healthy and appropriate personal boundaries and positively influencing healthy dynamics within the resident group.
- Building strong working relationships with each resident's Accountability Partner and local church support through cultivating a collaborative approach, offering guidance and regularly communicating the resident's progress and significant updates.
- Recording and advising the wider team on any significant observations or communications with assigned residents, contributing relevant guidance and information on the most appropriate support options for your assigned residents' emotional and spiritual needs.
- Maintaining pastoral supervision over your assigned residents' progress. This will include attending and participating in daily handover meetings, 30-day and 90-day resident evaluations, intervention meetings, weekly reviews, new resident handovers and crisis intervention.
- Collaborating with the Aftercare Coordinator to set your assigned residents up for success with a strong exit strategy and aftercare plan.
- Consulting regularly with the Curriculum Manager to access case load supervision, support in your own wellbeing and development through reflective practice, and to report and review programme effectiveness.
- Presenting the vision and mission of Mercy UK and being willing to deliver training to Christian audiences of all denominations and backgrounds as well as bringing an example of healthy Christian leadership in line with Mercy UK's statement of faith and lifestyle policies.
- Remaining discerning, innovative and open to change, offering your skills and support across the charity, as needed.
- Undertake continued training, be an active participant and show commitment to personal and spiritual development.

- Adhere to ethical practice, strict confidentiality, disclosure and safeguarding policies and use discretion at all times.