

Press Release

The Value of volunteering

Are you retired and looking to keep busy? A parent with time to spare whilst the kids are at school? Maybe you're a student looking for work experience that will fit around your studies? Whoever you are - Kirklees Citizens Advice and Law Centre has a volunteering opportunity to suit you.

The charity which is based in both Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres provides free, independent and , confidential advice to everyone on their rights on a wide range of issues including benefits, debt, employment, housing, relationships, immigration and much more.

Lesley Kaye, Operations Manager said , ' Volunteers form the backbone of our organisation, supporting the staff team and dealing with our clients in a range of roles. Across the two sites we are currently looking for Advice line telephone assessors, advisors, gateway assessors, office admins, campaigners and trustees. Full training is provided for all roles. All we ask is that applicants commit to donating 6 hours of their time each week for a minimum of one years' service.'

She adds, ' With the full roll-out of Universal Credit arriving in Kirklees before the end of the year, we are expecting increased numbers to be using our services and want to be prepared. Hence our latest recruitment drive.'

So what is it really like to be a volunteer with Kirklees Citizens Advice & Law Centre? Sam Heaton, 37, of Dewsbury Moor joined Citizens Advice as a Social Policy/Campaigns Volunteer in September 2016. Six months on she praises the charity for the positive impact it has not just on the lives of its service users but also its voluntary workers.

Sam commented, 'Kirklees Citizens Advice & Law Centre is a fantastically pro-active organisation to be involved with. The time I put in fits within school hours, which is essential as a parent, and as I am visually impaired the charity was very flexible when it came to finding the right role for me. I am looking for paid work but in the meantime volunteering here, keeps me busy, lets me continue to develop transferrable knowledge and skills and provides vital current work experience to add to my CV'. I would encourage anyone looking for new opportunities to consider the value of volunteering.'

Anyone interested in volunteering for Kirklees Citizens Advice and Law Centre can find more information at www.advicekirklees.org.uk or can telephone 0344 848 7970 or email volunteering@kcalc.org.uk