



The Nightstop Service

Nightstop Edinburgh is a regional branch of Nightstop UK which works towards the eradication of youth homelessness. The Nightstop Edinburgh service aims to provide young people between the ages of 16 and 25yrs with emergency accommodation of between 1 and 3 nights in the homes of approved volunteers. This method aims to prevent young people from becoming entrenched in homeless services and trapped in the cycle of homelessness.

Roles of the Nightstop Hosts

Host households are the foundation of Nightstop Edinburgh, and offer young people practical support within the community. They are a crucial link between the young people and the agencies that do more in-depth work with them, because they provide stability and safety. Hosts are committed to providing a warm welcome, breathing space and, if necessary, a listening ear. Host families come from every part of Edinburgh and their wishes and perspectives are paramount.

Role of the Nightstop Staff

Nightstop Edinburgh staff are experienced youth homelessness workers who prepare and support both young people and hosts involved in the project. The staff team is made up of full time workers and their managers, and an experienced bank of sessional staff who between them provide a 365 days-a-year service to Edinburgh's homeless and vulnerable young people. They will train you, support you and be contactable 7 days a week.

Referrals are taken by Nightstop staff every day between 11am and 5pm. These can be by telephone in the first instance, but there is a referral form to complete and thorough references for each referral are needed to accept the young person onto the service. Referrals

can be taken after 5pm also. This is done by our partners at Streetwork, our referral number will automatically divert to Streetwork after 5pm.

Am I a Suitable Volunteer?

Nightstop Edinburgh relies upon a large base of volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds. You do not have to have had experience in the homeless field; we simply ask that you have an open mind and non-judgemental approach. We take time to ensure that volunteers and young people will get the most out of a Nightstop placement by using:

- *application forms*
- *interviews*
- *character references*
- *enhanced disclosures*
- *training – initial and on-going*
- *placement reviews*
- *support and supervision*
- *socials and feedback sessions with other host families*

What to do Next...

If you think you may be interested in becoming a Nightstop host, or you would like more information about the project, contact the Youth Development Team on:

Tel: 0131 557 4059

Email: scott.christie@rocktrust.org