



Frequently Asked Questions

What do we do?

We have a contract with Wakefield Council to provide emergency cold weather shelter for rough sleepers. Additionally we run a voluntary Drop-In twice a week.

When do we open?

Our contract requires that we open when the Met Office weather forecast for Wakefield predicts at least three consecutive nights where the temperature is 0°C or below.

We are debating whether to open more frequently, for example when the wind makes it feel like sub-zero.

What do our volunteers do?

We are almost completely staffed by volunteers. We have about 8 volunteers each night we're open, covering different roles briefly as follows:

Evening meal & breakfast provider – 1 or 2 people to cook for 15 and deliver at 7.30pm.

Evening Shift – 3 people to set up, open up, serve food, and supervise the Shelter, 7.30-11.30pm.

Night Shift – 2 people, 11pm-7am. One person must be awake at all times. Bed available.

Morning Shift – 2 people to get people up, serve breakfast and clear up. 6.30-8.00am

Laundry/etc – 1 person to do any additional daytime tidying up and sorting.

We also have volunteer roles helping at our Drop-In (see below).

Is it a regular commitment?

It is unpredictable like the weather. We have a **rota** that we keep online, and we ask people to put their names down in advance. Many people put their names in the rota at regular times, but it's always a bit of a lottery.

Where can I find the rota?

The easiest way is to find it via our website: www.wakefieldbaptist.co.uk and go to the Night Shelter link down on the left.

How can I volunteer?

Get in touch with the Night Shelter Co-ordinator or download a Volunteer Registration Form from our website.

What about the Drop-In?

We run a Drop-In every Monday and Thursday, 1-4pm. We need volunteers here to help with things like: cook a meal, serve and clean up; chat to people; sort out clothing donations; sometimes help with issues like getting furniture, applying for a Community Care Grant, resolving debt issues, accessing other services, etc.



Do I need any training or experience?

No experience is required, just a willingness to help people and a sympathetic attitude. We do run a series of 1 hour induction sessions and all volunteers must attend one of these.

I'm a bit nervous, what's the best way for me to start?

You can be an extra volunteer during an evening shift. Usually there are three volunteers, but we can have one extra who can help out or simply shadow and observe one of the more experienced volunteers.

Can my son or daughter volunteer with me?

We do not allow anyone under 16 to work as a volunteer, but we have welcomed 16 and 17 year olds as a fourth person during the evening shift – *under the supervision of a parent*.

What about CRB checks?

As we are working with vulnerable people we do require all our volunteers to go through our CRB check procedure. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and we do consider each case individually where issues come up on CRB checks.

Is it safe?

We take the safety of our volunteers very seriously, and while incidents are rare we do have safety systems in place and good working relationships with the Police.

I can't volunteer, but is there any other way I can help?

We do welcome donations of clothing (especially socks, hats, gloves and coats), washing things (e.g. soap, toothbrushes, towels, etc.), and furniture and other household items for people who move into accommodation. We also welcome cash donations through the Church.

How can I find out more information?

Go to our website www.wakefieldbaptist.co.uk and follow the link to Night Shelter down on the left hand side.

Call or email Henry Fisher, Night Shelter Co-ordinator on 07939 811077
henry@nightshelter.org.uk

Where are you?

Wakefield Baptist Church, Belle Isle Avenue, Wakefield, WF1 5JY (see website for map)
(Opposite the Arriva Bus Depot on Barnsley Road)