

NIGHTSTOP NORTHEAST

VOLUNTEER

INFORMATION PACK



NIGHTSTOP
Depaul



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Who we are

Depaul UK is a national homelessness charity with a focus on young people. We exist to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

We prevent young people becoming homeless by providing shelter and support in a crisis, rebuilding family relationships, and teaching children about the risks of homelessness and where to turn for help.

For those already facing homelessness, we offer expert housing advice, supported accommodation, and programmes of support that develop life-skills, resilience, and an achievable path to independence.



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Our **vision** is of a society in which everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Our **mission** is to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

What is Nightstop?

358,370 people sought help in 2023 because they had nowhere to live. At Nightstop we provide safety, a bed and some breathing space.

Nightstop Northeast prevents homelessness by placing people, aged 16+, with nowhere else to stay, in the homes of trained and vetted volunteers within their local community. Volunteer drivers make sure people arrive at their hosts home safely.

Volunteers across the UK offer their spare room for the night, a hot meal, washing facilities, breakfast and a packed lunch in the morning. These acts of care from Nightstop hosts ensure people at risk are given time, support and the safety to find their feet. In doing so, these hosts can change someone's life.

Hosting is completely flexible on a night-by-night basis, and hosts are completely free to choose which nights they would like to host. Hosts receive the training and support needed to complete this role, alongside expenses to cover the cost of hosting.



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How does it work?

- 1 A person is referred to Nightstop
- 2 Nightstop conducts a risk assessment and collects references, to see whether Nightstop is a suitable service for that person
- 3 If the person is suitable to use Nightstop, a host that is available will be contacted
- 4 The person arrives at an agreed time and is offered a warm meal, a shower or bath, use of the washing machine and a clean, private room
- 5 The Nightstop service will contact the guest and host in the morning to check that everything went as planned
- 6 The guest leaves in the morning at an agreed time having had breakfast and with a packed lunch
- 7 Nightstop supports the person to find long-term accommodation



A smiling man and woman standing outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a dark top. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a white textured wall and some greenery.

Keeping volunteers safe

Our number one priority is to ensure that volunteers and guests are safe and comfortable. Nightstop conducts thorough risk assessments for all guests. We also collect professional references. This could mean we speak to the person's social worker, teacher, employer, or youth worker to understand any potential risks or support needs. We do not accept referrals for people who have:

- > A dependency on drugs or alcohol
- > A history of violent or aggressive behaviour
- > Unmanaged mental health support needs

Host role requirements

- > Provide a safe, clean environment for a young person
- > Have a spare room for the guest to use
- > Have a strong interest in the welfare of people and a desire to help homeless and disadvantaged people in particular
- > Provide basic support through listening and talking with the guest
- > Provide a warm evening meal, breakfast and a packed lunch
- > Liaise effectively with Nightstop staff

Our hosts come from all walks of life. Volunteers don't need any specialist experience or qualifications to become a Nightstop host. All you need is a spare room in your home and a welcoming and supportive outlook.

Driver role requirements

Volunteer drivers enable Nightstop guests to find their way to a new host's home and are especially helpful if the guest is not familiar with the neighbourhood or the host's home is hard to get to on public transport. They also help to make guests feel more at ease in what can be a scary situation, by chatting to them before they arrive and introducing them to the host.

Volunteer drivers will:

- > Meet the guest, by arrangement with the Nightstop staff member
- > Chat with the guest and put them at ease during transit
- > Drive the guest to the volunteer host's home
- > Introduce the guest to the host (without entering the host's home)
- > Call Nightstop to confirm the guest has arrived at the host's home safely
- > Hold an active drivers license and have up to date car insurance and MOT

A photograph of a young man and woman smiling and standing in front of a brick house with a dark door. The woman has blonde hair and is wearing a light-colored top. The man has dark hair and a beard, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. A light blue banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

Support for volunteers

- > £15 per night expenses
- > All new hosts will be required to complete a training programme prior to commencement of the role
- > Check-ins after every placement and face-to-face supervision sessions
- > Additional training opportunities on young people's issues will be offered regularly
- > Social activities and consultation events with other hosts
- > Access to an out-of-hours emergency on call service

Guest responsibilities

Guests must agree to the Nightstop rules and understand their responsibilities before using the service. This is clearly explained to them by Nightstop staff. Guests must agree to the following rules:

- > Respect Nightstop volunteers and staff
- > Not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- > Agree to follow host house rules
- > To arrive and leave at the time requested by the host
- > Keep the hosts address private
- > Be respectful of the hosts property and possessions
- > Do not invite friends to the hosts home



The recruitment process

Nightstop has a duty to make sure that all hosts can offer guests a safe and supportive environment. .

To start the process you will need to complete an application form. After this, Nightstop staff will arrange a home visit to complete an informal interview to learn more about you. We will also complete a home health and safety check.

You will be asked to complete an online Disclosure and Barring Service form (DBS) for all members their household over the age of 16, and we will ask them to provide two references. For couples applying to the scheme, you will also be asked to provide a joint reference.

Finally, you will be asked to complete/attend the initial training which also forms part of the assessment process.

Once all of the information is gathered, Nightstop staff will write a report for an approval panel who will review your application and references.

FAQ's

How long would I be expected to host?

Volunteers can host as often as they want. Some volunteers host a few nights a week and other volunteers host a couple of times a month. Nightstop asks its hosts which nights they will be available and then checks to make sure the host is still free before making the arrangements for that evening.

What happens over the weekend?

Most placements will be made for the entire weekend, from Friday evening until Monday morning. Most of the same rules will apply i.e. the guest is not allowed to be in your house while you are not in. If you go out, they will have to go out too. However, if you are staying in it is up to you whether you want to ask them to leave in the morning.

Do I need to own my home?

You do not need to own your own home.

Will my insurance be affected?

You will be required to advise your insurer that plan to volunteer for Nightstop. Staff may be able to advise you if your current insurer cannot cover you.

Will I get expenses?

You will receive £15 a night when a guest is placed with you.

What happens to the guest once they leave in the morning?

The guest will leave at an agreed time in the morning and, if they require another night on Nightstop, return to a host's home at an agreed time. How long the guest uses Nightstop for varies on a case by case basis, but is usually between 3 days to 3 weeks.

What a guest does during the day depends on their personal circumstances: They might have a job or be enrolled in school or college; they might work with a partner organisation offering mental health support or support with education or training opportunities; or they might meet somebody from the Nightstop to help them find long term accommodation.

Are visitors allowed while I'm hosting?

We ask hosts not to have visitors calling at their home when they are due to have a guest staying over. This is because we always complete a vetting process for any adults the guest will be coming into contact with. The presence of visitors might also make the guest feel uncomfortable

Can I use my DBS check from another organisations?

Nightstop will require you to have a new DBS check in line with organisational policy, unless you are on the update service



NightstopNE@depaulcharity.org.uk

0191 253 6164

Click [here](#) to apply now!

**“ We put young people
at the heart
of what we do ”**



DEPAUL
Homelessness has no place

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