

FAQs



CHIPS Project

Why CHIPS?

This is a new project for Unseen and we are working our way through what it looks like to deliver a place of safety for young people who have been trafficked. We have been working on this for over 3 years and finally feel the time is right to launch the project. We know there is a gap in provision, we know we need to close this gap and have a way of doing this we think really works. We are, however, willing to be flexible and appreciate we are asking a lot from the House Parent role – but we genuinely believe there are folks out there who would be perfect for this role.

We have our own property what should we do with this?

One consideration would be to rent your property out for the time you take on the voluntary placement and to use this income to cover a mortgage. We are unfortunately unable to offer advice or help with this.

We can only commit to 3 nights and days a week – would this be OK?

We are willing to offer flexibility and have considered that this role could be split between a few couples. The balance here would be ensuring the young people know everyone and that we do not bombard them with too many adults. However a split of 3 or 4 nights and days a week living at the home and then returning to your own property is a viable option and something we would be keen to explore should the right group of couples come forward.

Can one or both of us continue to work while we volunteer?

We will require one house parent to be on site when young people are home. We envisage the busiest times at home would predominantly be early mornings, and the evening, weekends and overnight, just like any other family home. We are happy to discuss house parents continuing or seeking paid employment elsewhere and envisage that at least one of the parents could continue working full or part time as long as they were able to support their partner, the young people and be a part of the wider team at the times mentioned above. Working during school hours can be facilitated and will allow House Parents to continue having a steady income.

What is included in the package from Unseen?

In return for volunteering Unseen will be able to offer:

- Full Board and lodgings (including bills);
- Access to a car for house and personal use;
- An initial relocation package (any associated moving costs/travel costs);
- Small allowance to cover personal expenses (clothing, toiletries, meals, date night allowance, travel related to volunteering);
- Reimbursement for any spending relating to the young people in your care.

If you have any further questions about anything specifically regarding reimbursement and finance, please do contact us.

How many young person will be there at any one time?

There will be a maximum of 3 young people (16+) at the home at any one time.

The gender mix of the house will be determined by the needs and risk assessment process, which will be conducted by the staff team.

We think young people will stay at the home for up to 6 months.

Why a couple?

We want the primary House Parents to be a couple (small group of couples) to demonstrate a positive and meaningful relationship to the young people as a couple and to also be a support mechanism for each other. However, we are open to discussing the possibility of House Aunty and Uncles who could be single people who are willing to cover the times House Parents are not available (weekends, leave and in emergencies).