

Press release

4th May 2017



Bristol charity looking for a couple to create a home for trafficked young people

In the UK alone, more than 3 children and young people a day were identified last year as having been trafficked. Over the last few years the numbers of children and young people identified has risen by 30%. Currently no specific support and accommodation exists as a suitable intervention for trafficked young people, around 60% of whom currently go missing from local authority placements. These displaced and exploited young people are being let down at the time they need support the most.

But Bristol charity Unseen hopes to change this. This summer Unseen is launching its first safe accommodation project for young people who have been trafficked, with the aim of providing young people with the care they desperately need and deserve. The building is currently being renovated, the House Manager has been appointed, and a 24/7 support team is being recruited, but the team isn't complete. Unseen is looking for an extraordinary couple (or couples who share the task) to join as volunteer live-in House Parents for one year to turn this accommodation project into a homely, supportive and safe home for up to 3 trafficked young people (16+). Kate Garbers, MD of Unseen said "By creating a loving, caring, stable home, House Parents will be supporting trafficked young people as they begin their journey of recovery". The findings of this project will help Unseen shape the provision of care given to trafficked young people across the UK.

If you're interested in finding out more about this life-changing volunteer opportunity contact Unseen's Central Office on 0303 040 288, email us at admin@unseenuk.org or check the website (www.unseenuk.org) for a House Parent Information Pack, Further Information document and FAQs.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

- In 2016, official government statistics showed that 1,278 children were identified as trafficked in the UK – an increase of 30%
- Unseen began in 2008 and works to support survivors of modern slavery, train frontline staff to correctly identify victims, and collaborate with government and other agencies to combat modern slavery in the UK and abroad.
- Unseen's [women's safe house](#) is one of only three services in the country offering 24/7 support to female victims of human trafficking.
- Unseen's new 24/7 supported [men's safe-house project](#) opened in summer 2016.
- In October 2016, Unseen launched the UK's enhanced 24-hour [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) for potential victims, members of the public, frontline professionals and businesses to call if they need help or advice: **08000 121 700**.
- Unseen also offers a resettlement service to help survivors continue their journey of recovery within their chosen community.
- Unseen runs a Room Sponsorship Scheme for people to directly support young survivors at the 24/7 young people's safe house project: www.unseenuk.org/donate/sponsor-a-room

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