

National Volunteer & Church Engagement Coordinator



Hope UK - Equipping Young People to make Drug-Free Choices

About Hope UK

Children and young people are at the heart of Hope UK's mission.

Our vision is for children and young people in Britain to live confident, healthy, drug-free and fulfilling lives.

Our aim is to equip children and young people throughout the United Kingdom to develop the knowledge and skills they need to make drug-free choices. We do this through direct delivery of programmes to children and young people, as well as training those with responsibility for them, parents and youth workers, for example. Young people are encouraged to get involved with our work in a variety of ways, including membership of our youth branch, Generation Hope. We also develop local networks of community-based volunteers who work directly with children and young people as well as providing training for adults.

Our staff and volunteers work with children and young people in schools and youth groups, providing interactive, age-appropriate educational sessions about alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. Our experience of working with young people shows that many still do not realise how damaging regular excessive drinking or using vapes, for example, can be. Life skills that enhance peer resistance and build confidence are woven into sessions designed to encourage healthy choices and enable children and young people to realise their potential.

As demand for our services increases, we are aiming to increase the number of trained volunteers around the UK to help meet demand. Where we have local funding, we employ a part time workers to support and develop our work in their area.



Our History

History of Hope UK

(Formerly the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union)

One of the first responses to the problems of excessive drinking in the 1800's was the formation of temperance societies. These usually had a Christian base and were initially composed of people who took a pledge to abstain from spirits and be moderate in their consumption of other alcoholic drinks. However, problems caused by excessive consumption of alcohol in society at that time were considerable and there was controversy as to whether moderate drinking of any alcoholic beverage was sufficient to tackle the problem. In 1832 the 'Seven Men of Preston' signed a pledge to totally abstain from intoxicating beverages. This was known as 'signing the pledge'. The idea spread, and temperance societies sprang up all over Britain.

In August 1847 Ann Jane Carlisle was invited by Leeds Temperance Society to speak. Mrs Carlisle was an Irish lady concerned about excessive drinking amongst children and the effect that adult drinking was having on them. During her time in Leeds several children and young people showed an interest in her talks and 'signed the pledge'. It was suggested that a special temperance group to be set up for children under 16. Its aims would be to teach children about Christianity and the problems associated with drinking and to encourage them to live a healthy, alcohol-free lifestyle. In November 1847 the first meeting of this group took place in Leeds. About 300 children attended, 200 of whom 'signed the pledge' for the first time, the rest having already done so. The group became known as the 'Band of Hope'.

Other groups were starting the same kind of children's clubs and many of them took the name 'Band of Hope', together becoming the Band of Hope movement. In 1855 the UK Band of Hope Union. The Band of Hope movement embraced all sorts of activities - it produced a children's hymn book, wrote children's songs, ran and started more children's clubs (the essence of the work), held bazaars, produced booklets, leaflets, magic lantern slide shows etc., sent qualified medical men to give lectures in schools, held competitions and festivals and crowned pageant queens every year. In 1897, the Jubilee year, the estimated membership was nearly 3.5 million, Queen Victoria was patron, and several celebrations were held.

In some ways, it could be said that the success of the Band of Hope caused its own decline. As alcohol misuse became less of a problem and as legislation improved there seemed to be less need to work so fervently in this area and like many of the other social reform charities formed in Victorian times, the Band of Hope began to decline.

Recently, the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union has changed and adapted, becoming Hope UK in 1995. With the increased use of recreational drugs, Hope UK now specialises in drug education and life skills training.



The logo consists of the word 'Hope' written in a large, red, cursive script font. Below it, the letters 'UK' are written in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a green background.

About this appointment

Hope UK has seen significant development over the past few years and is seeking to continue this work, by growing sustainable funding, improving our public profile – especially to churches – and most importantly by increasing the number of activities we do each year.

For the last 30 years we have been developing our voluntary educator work – much of our local work is taken by our highly trained volunteers. However, in recent years our volunteer workforce has shrunk significantly. This was mainly as a consequence of covid and the cost of living crisis, but for the last year our volunteer coordinator has been off sick (and has now retired) so we had no full time staff member able to recruit new volunteers or support existing ones.

This new role has been created to grow our engagement with the UK church and to recruit and coordinate the work of our volunteers. We have volunteers located across the UK delivering sessions to a wide variety of groups. In order to extend this work we want to work more closely with churches to generate opportunities to achieve our mission of 'equipping young people to choose drug-free lifestyles'. This will be achieved by prayer, financial support and recruiting volunteers.

Job Description

Volunteer & Church Engagement Coordinator

Accountable to:	CEO
Based at:	50 Gold Street, Kettering, NN16 8JB, although some can be home-based. This role will include travel and out of hours working.
Hours of work:	Full-time, 35 hours a week. Time off in lieu for out of office hours duties.
Salary:	£25-£28,000 a year, depending on experience
Annual Leave:	22 paid days (plus 3 days between Christmas and New Year when the office is closed) plus Bank Holidays.

Summary of Duties

The role of the National Volunteer & Church Engagement Coordinator has responsibility for increasing our engagement with the church and number of and activities delivered by volunteer educators. The post holder will recruit, support the training of and develop volunteer drug educators to deliver high quality drug prevention activities where they are based. They will engage with churches creating opportunities to promote the work of Hope UK. They may work throughout the UK, but initially will help develop this work in London and Worcestershire, and the four areas where we have local project workers – South Wales, Northamptonshire, the East Midlands and Sheffield.

The role of the Volunteer & Church Engagement Coordinator will include:

1. Working to engage the UK church, promoting our work, and highlighting the need for high quality drug prevention work. Helping to get us better known within the churches. This will involve working with all Christian denominations
2. Supporting national recruitment processes for volunteers.

3. Developing opportunities for volunteers in new areas.
4. Coordinating volunteer activity, equipping them to find and deliver drug training events.
5. Helping to train volunteers and ensuring the ongoing training of volunteers.
6. Supporting regular reviews of volunteer policies and procedures.
7. Training as a Hope UK Drug Educator and providing relevant Hope UK sessions to groups and at exhibitions (where appropriate).
8. Researching churches in specific geographic areas.
9. Working with the wider staff team, generating church talks appropriate to the needs of various denominations.
10. Developing financial and prayer support for the work of Hope UK, by visiting churches and Christian organisations to represent and promote Hope UK, taking part in worship services as appropriate.
11. Organising and supporting volunteers and project workers to deliver church talks.
12. Supporting events based in our building in Kettering.
13. Assisting with the Hope UK conference.
14. General administration and record keeping.
15. Any other duties that are appropriate to the position, including providing support for other members of the staff team in times of annual leave and sickness.

Hope UK is a drug education and prevention charity with a Christian foundation working for children and young people. This includes the promotion of alcohol and drug-free options. Our staff and voluntary Drug Educators are therefore Christians who have chosen lifestyles free from the use of alcohol and recreational drugs, including nicotine. Our CEO, Sarah Brighton, is happy to talk this through with any prospective applicant.

The duties of this post will include representing the Christian ethos of the organisation. Because of this, there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (under the terms of the relevant employment regulations) that the post-holder be a Christian.



Person Specification: Volunteer & church engagement coordinator

Education	Essential or Desirable
1. Educated to A level standard or equivalent (Or already completed the Hope UK Educator training programme.)	E
2. Youth Work qualification or similar	D
Experience	
3. Worked or volunteered in a community-based role	D
4. Worked or volunteered with children or young people	D
5. Previous experience of working with churches	D
6. Previous experience of starting a project or similar	E
Skills/Abilities	
7. Good interpersonal skills – for example, in networking	E
8. Good communication skills	E
9. Able to motivate others	E
10. Ability to work unsupervised, use initiative and take responsibility for tasks	E
11. Ability to demonstrate a methodical, organised and flexible approach to work.	E
12. Able to work as part of a team and on own initiative.	E
13. Ability to plan, organise and prioritise workload to meet deadlines.	E
14. Ability to remain calm under pressure.	E
Personal Qualities	
15. A clear commitment to the Christian faith	E
16. Drug Free (including legal substances but not medicines)	E
17. Able to work flexibly when necessary (for example at weekends) and able to be away from home when needed	E
18. Able to travel within the UK	E
19. An understanding of the charity/voluntary sector	D



Terms & conditions and How to Apply

Type: Permanent, with six-month probation
Hours: Full-time – 35 hours per week
Location: Office based in Kettering (and can be some home based) with travel
Closing date: 4th July 2025
Interview date: Week commencing 14th July 2025

To apply, send in your CV with a covering letter explaining why you would like the role and how you meet the requirements.

If you would like an informal chat about this role, please contact Sarah on 020 7928 0848

All applicants must be committed to the aims, ethos and values of Hope UK.

This post is subject to an Occupational Requirement that the post holder is a committed evangelical Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.

Applications to:
enquiries@hopeuk.org

Recruitment
Hope UK
50 Gold Street
Kettering
NN16 8JB

