

Title of Post:	ESC Volunteer
Location:	Dublin
Reporting:	Service Manager / Team Leader
Hours of Work:	32hours per week / 4 days per week

About Peter McVerry Trust: Is a National housing and homeless charity. Established in 1983 by Fr Peter McVerry the charity works with individuals at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, primarily in the Dublin region. Peter McVerry Trust provides a wide range of services in the areas of prevention, housing, homelessness, under 18s residential and drug treatment.

Our Vision: “An Ireland that supports all those on the margins and upholds their rights to full inclusion in society.”

Our Mission: Peter McVerry Trust is committed to reducing homelessness and the harm caused by drug misuse and social disadvantage. Peter McVerry Trust provides low-threshold entry services, primarily to younger persons with complex needs, and offers pathways out of homelessness based on the principles of the Housing First model and within a framework that is based on equal opportunities, dignity and respect.

For those volunteers who are interested, excited and energised by working with the most marginalised in society, they can apply to volunteer on our programme for a duration of 12 months. The volunteer will work 32 hours a week in a structured and professional environment and will be supported with a mentor, the service manager and programme coordinator, through ongoing fortnightly meetings. Non formal learning is recognised throughout the programme and it refers to the learning in daily life activities, it is mainly ‘Learning by doing’ or referred to as experimental learning. This learning will be framed through the specific learning outcomes and it is envisaged that all new learning will be mapped out and evaluated for the Youthpass Certificate, which, as a formal document, enables young people to acquire essential competences and contributes to their personal development, social inclusion and active citizenship thereby improving their employment prospects.

Volunteer is entitled to two days annual leave per each month of his volunteering service (in total 24 days if the activity is 12 months)

Additionally, volunteer has time off during bank holidays as any other employee of Peter McVerry Trust.

Volunteers will be based between three services:

- 1. Advice and Information Office / Youth Café**
- 2. Supported Temporary Accommodation**
- 3. Housing with Support + Housing First**

Volunteers can put an expression of interest towards a service that they would like to be placed in, however the final decision will be made by the programme coordinator.

Volunteers will have a chance to get involved in other aspects of the organisation like:

- Fundraising
- Communication team - *Empty Homes Project*
- Resources visits to other services to experience all the aspects of the organisation

- 1. Advice and Information Office / Youth Café (Day service)** -The service provides information and advice to persons at risk of becoming homeless or persons who are currently accessing homeless services. It operates mainly day time, however they are some evenings when the service is open. The service provides a welcoming and positive space for people to access food, IT, laundry, storage and shower facilities as well as receiving support from Peter McVerry Trust staff on site. Currently there is over 50 clients who access the service on everyday basis.

Tasks:

- Building professional relationships with participants
- Attending morning meetings where the day is planned
- Restocking and organizing the Service for the clients
- Keeping stock of household necessities and purchasing weekly groceries
- Talking and engaging with the participants

- Preparing the service for opening
- Preparing sandwiches and coffee
- Preparing “Big Breakfast”
- Helping and assisting the clients and offer social interaction in a respectful, safe and professional environment
- Weekly “check in “with the supervisor
- Assisting staff with their every need
- Providing support to clients with use of internet
- Helping with appointments, forms and applications
- Being responsible for intervention and observation of residents (observe residents and fill out the document)
- Requesting a daily handover of relevant information from staff upon entering the service where timing is appropriate
- Insuring that the service is kept clean
- Reporting directly to your line manager

2. Supported Temporary Accommodation (open access accommodation service – staffed 24h) -

Peter McVerry Trust currently provides Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) services in the Dublin City, Fingal, Kildare and South Dublin council areas. Places are prioritised for those over 18 years of age who are homeless and have complex low-threshold needs. An STA service is modelled on a 6 month placement.

Unfortunately, due to the housing and homeless emergency people are spending longer than 6 months in homelessness. The biggest STA service provides beds to 60 adult males.

Tasks:

- Building professional relationships with participants
- Co-organise Social Nights
- Doing estate management
- Helping resident to move into other accommodation service
- Using internet research for suitable accommodations
- Using research for job trainings and educational programmes

- Shopping at supermarket (food, cleaning materials, etc.)
- Providing meals and engaging participants in meal preparation where possible to support the development of participants' independent living skills
- Being responsible for intervention and observation of residents (observe residents and fill out the document)
- Cleaning and maintain high accommodation standards
- Tidying up the communal areas
- Mailing and distributing post
- Helping residents to move into another room
- Helping residents with laundry
- Supporting residents with giving information about bank account
- Helping residents to move into other accommodation service
- Creating concept for quiz-evening-event // preparing and doing a quiz-evening with residents
- Going shopping for resident (clothes for appointment)
- Picking up delivery from other PMVT service
- Supporting residents with moving to another PMVT service
- Preparing and cleaning rooms for new residents
- Requesting a daily handover of relevant information from staff upon entering the service where timing is appropriate
- Insuring that the service is kept clean
- Reporting directly to your line manager

3. Housing with Support + Housing First

Housing with Support - Accommodation in the Housing with Support Service, principally in the form of apartments, has been secured by way of direct purchase. Depending on identified need, participants are supported in this service either by way of intensive housing supports, visiting housing supports or through the SLI (Support to Live Independently).

The Housing with Support Service also incorporates shared drug-free accommodation which aims to provide a safe, stable and healthy environment to support participants in preparing for a drug-free life. The service bridges the gaps for individuals undergoing the difficult transition to treatment and from treatment towards a sustainable drug free lifestyle.

Housing First - Peter McVerry Trust was an early adopter of the Housing First Model in Ireland and was a key partner in the delivery of the Dublin Housing First Demonstration Project.

Housing First, which originated in North America, is a model of homeless service provision which centres on the provision of housing and intensive wraparound supports once housed as the first step in tackling homelessness.

Tasks:

- Taking part / Organising the Social Night – Monday (Drug Free)
 - Shopping
 - Cooking with participants
 - Building professional relationships
- Attending the House Meeting/ Tuesday Evening (Drug Free)
 - There are 8 Participants of Drug Free in one house
 - Helping to conduct drug tests
 - Solving maintenance/interpersonal issues
- Supporting the Housing First Team Member in House Visits
 - Doing visits together
 - Helping with shopping/listening/solving problems of the participants
- Working with two independent unit inhabitants
 - Building a professional relationship
 - Supporting in individual development/ support positive attitudes/passions
 - Helping with life skills
- Work in the HWS Service
 - Being there in peak times for support etc.
- Preparing and cleaning accommodations for new residents
- Supporting staff members during house health and safety checks
- Attending Housing First meetings
- Engaging participants in meal preparation where possible to support the development of participants' independent living skills
- Advising and helping participants with housekeeping needs

- Shopping for residents (clothes, phones, etc.)
- Requesting a daily handover of relevant information from staff upon entering the service where timing is appropriate
- Insuring that the service is kept clean

Personal Specification:

- ✓ Being between 18 and 30 years old
- ✓ Interest in personal development
- ✓ Interest in professional development in the area of social problems/housing/health issues
- ✓ Interest in gaining knowledge of Irish health and housing sector
- ✓ Flexibility
- ✓ Ability to work well in a team
- ✓ Able to deliver practical skills to others
- ✓ An interest in gaining an understanding of the needs of homeless people
- ✓ Enthusiastic to set up mini projects to engage our service users.

The following factors are also considered:

- ✓ Volunteer's motivation for applying to participate in EVS
- ✓ Volunteer's motivation for applying to the project
- ✓ Volunteer's general understanding of the factors that lead people to become homeless and an ability to demonstrate an understanding of the client group.
- ✓ Challenges that the volunteer anticipates when working in our project
- ✓ The skills and abilities a volunteer feels they will bring to the project
- ✓ Volunteer's general expectation of a placement in Ireland
- ✓ We also request a motivational letter outlining the reason why one is interested in securing an EVS placement with Peter McVerry Trust.
- ✓ Volunteer will be required to attend Leargas On Arrival and Mid-Way training
- ✓ Volunteer will be required to attend appropriate Peter McVerry Trust training
- ✓ Volunteer will be required to submit Youthpass by the end of the programme.

Due to the nature of the work and the client group PMVT works with, PMVT seeks volunteers who are interested in working with disadvantaged individuals and can see both the support that is needed as well as the potential that people have. Volunteers are sought who choose the project not only because

of the city or county, but also because of the experience and development they will gain. Moreover, PMTV looks for a volunteer who could bring something of their own experiences and culture to enrich the hosting project and local community. As a lot of the volunteer's activities will be aided by communication our volunteers with a basic knowledge of English are sought.

Qualifications and Experience:

- ✓ Basic English communication skills– oral, aural and written;
- ✓ Resilience, flexibility and openness to change;
- ✓ Commitment to providing the highest level of service, respect for others, contributing to the prevention and management of challenging behaviour, professionalism & maintaining professional boundaries and effective team working. (All other competencies to be reviewed as part of the supervision and support process);
- ✓ Demonstrated interest in the area of housing and homelessness.