**Volunteer Recruitment Guidelines**

SARAC is a registered charity in Burton on Trent supporting people aged 11 years and over who are affected by sexual violence and who currently live in Burton on Trent, Tamworth, Lichfield, Uttoxeter or South Derbyshire.

We welcome people regardless of disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, identity, or any other difference.

Working in sexual trauma support can be difficult and emotional at times; please consider the impact this may have on you prior to application. Due to the sensitive nature of the work carried out by sarac volunteers and the sometimes distressing content of the role; there are some recommendations made by SARAC to safeguard and consider the needs and well-being of the clients:

* All prospective volunteers must be over the age of 21 years old due to the subject matter and emotional nature of the supporting roles. If you are under the age of 21 years old, please take a look at our ‘Young Ambassador’ role.
* Volunteer wellbeing is of paramount to SARAC. With this in mind, we ask where possible and appropriate, that prospective volunteers disclose any current mental health issues or disabilities which may impact their role and well-being. This is to ensure we are mindful of limitations and how we can support you. This will only be required should the applicant be invited to interview and will not be required on the application form.
* Due to the nature of our work, all volunteers who would like to provide face to face services **MUST** be completing an accredited and recognised qualification in counselling or be fully qualified, to a level 4 or above in adult counselling. If you would still like to volunteer and you do not hold this qualification, please take a look at our ‘Helpline Volunteer’ vacancies - we highly value personal life experience and we are pleased to accept applications from prospective volunteers without relevant qualifications/work experience.
* Whilst we greatly value the empathy and knowledge of somebody that has personal experience of the issues SARAC interact with; all prospective volunteers that have experienced trauma or sexual/domestic abuse themselves. We encourage you to give serious thought and consideration as to whether you can provide emotional support to SARAC clients. Working with clients could cause powerful thoughts and emotions to resurface.
* There is a list of occupations that are deemed a ‘conflict of interest’ by SARAC and will be explored should you be successful in securing an interview. The occupations are listed below and are decided with the client’s best interests in mind:
* Police Officers
* Magistrates
* Judges