

What type of person makes a good volunteer for Bedford Street Angels?

Christian Faith – Bedford Street Angels is based upon strong Christian values and ethos. Volunteers must be committed within a local Christian church, and be endeavouring to live by Biblical principles.

Spiritually mature – not dependent upon being in a particular age bracket nor having been a Christian for a particular length of time, but being able to cope with the wide range of circumstances that can be encountered and able to act as a role model to other volunteers. Being a volunteer is not suitable for persons who may themselves be vulnerable.

Team player - Street Angels never work alone. Volunteers work in mixed gender patrol teams. Volunteers will be expected to support and encourage those they work alongside.

Teachable – willing to learn how best to respond to situations and individuals.

Empathy with people – able to understand the needs of an individual from the perspective of the person expressing those needs.

Stamina – able to patrol late at night on the street, probably 2 sessions of around 2- 3 hours each with a break between but able to be flexible if an incident needs an extended response.

Adaptable – able to change the nature of the support offered according to the needs being expressed.

Communication – able to listen and seek to understand. Understand how to use appropriate language, tone and volume according to the situation. Be able to recognise different forms of non-verbal communication.

Self awareness – able to understand one's own emotional response to a situation and remain cool. Aware of one's own non-verbal communication, in particular when approaching a vulnerable person.

Caring – someone who cares about the local community and is willing and able to do something about it.

Safeguarding – all volunteers have to provide an up-to-date Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service or complete a Self-Declaration form.