

A man in a dark shirt is seen from the side, focused on cooking. In the foreground, a large stainless steel pot sits on a stove, with steam rising from it. The background is slightly blurred, showing another person and a bright overhead light. The overall atmosphere is warm and busy.

Volunteer Drop-in Cook

An exciting opportunity for someone who would be willing to cook for young people to join Youthscape's Luton team

Youthscape

About Youthscape

Back in 1993, Youthscape started life as the Luton Churches Education Trust - a charity started and funded by the churches in Luton, working together to serve teenagers across the town. Since then we have grown into a national hub for youth work resources, events and training, whilst continuing to serve young people here at home.

Youthscape Luton supports young people with their social, emotional and spiritual development through a variety of youth work programmes in schools, our building in Luton Town Centre, and churches. We support thousands of young people a year, and our incredible volunteer team plays a key role in enabling us to offer the provision that we do.

About the Role

We are looking for Volunteer Drop-in Cooks to help support some of the youth work programmes we run in our building in Luton Town Centre - Bute Mills. We run two after school programmes, both of which are informal, open access youth work programmes where we provide long-term, impactful support to young people from Years 7-13.

Bute Mills Drop-in runs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during term time from 3.30pm-6.00pm for those in Years 9-13.

Bute Mills Youth Group runs every Monday during term time from 4.00pm-6.00pm for those in Years 7-8.

This programme is designed to be a place where young people feel at **home**, where they are a part of **family**, where they are **safe**, and where they can have **fun**. A key element in building this culture is providing the young people with a free, hot, two-course home cooked meal each day. We are looking for cooks to join our team who are willing to cook dinner for up to 50 people one night a week.

As Youthscape is a faith-based youth work charity and this plays a foundational role in our work with young people, it is our policy that all volunteers are practising Christians and attend church regularly.



Role Description

Tasks

- Providing a main meal and dessert for approximately 40 people (ingredients will be provided).
- Helping to clear up the kitchen after the session.
- Interacting positively with young people as they come in and out of the kitchen.
- Maintaining the culture of Bute Mills Drop-in/Bute Mills Youth Group.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- Strong Christian faith.
- Ability to cook high quality meals for large numbers.
- Good time keeping.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to be adaptable and work well in a busy environment.
- Understanding of food hygiene practices.
- Understanding of good safeguarding practices.

Location

Bute Mills, 74 Bute Street, Luton, LU1 2EY

Hours

Bute Mills Drop-in volunteering hours are either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (whichever is best for you) from 3.15pm-6.30pm (including briefings and clear up).

Bute Mills Youth Group volunteering hours are a Monday from 3.45pm-6.30pm (including briefings and clear up).

Commitment

Volunteers will need to be available for one Bute Mills Drop-in or Bute Mills Youth Group session twice per term and will be expected to commit to supporting in this way for at least one academic year.

Benefits

Team

Youthscape is a dynamic, creative, exciting place to work and you will have the opportunity to work alongside a number of experienced and qualified youth workers and volunteers as part of the Youthscape Luton team.

Supervision

You will receive termly 1:1 supervision from an experienced member of the Youthscape Luton staff team where you will have the opportunity to talk through your volunteering experience, raise any concerns, give any feedback, and discuss any training needs. You may also speak to the staff member who is leading the programme session within which you are volunteering at any time.

Induction and Training

All volunteers will receive a full induction and the following training within their first term of volunteering:

- Safeguarding (this must take place before volunteering begins)
- Food Hygiene (this must take place before volunteering begins)

Further training opportunities can also be provided if required e.g. youth work practice, supporting young people around specific needs etc.

Volunteers will also be expected to take part in yearly Youthscape Luton team training around values and culture.

Opportunities

As Youthscape is involved in a range of different work with young people and youth workers nationally there may be other opportunities to engage with events and training that may be of interest to you e.g. The National Youth Ministry Weekend, Satellites Youth Festival etc.

Celebration

We significantly value our volunteers, and to help demonstrate this we hold a yearly summer event where we celebrate you and indicate our appreciation for your commitment.

Application Process

If you would like to ask any questions before applying, please feel free to contact Emily Croucher, our Luton Volunteer Manager by phone on 01582 748965 or by email at emily.croucher@youthscape.co.uk.

To apply for this role please download an application form at <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/about/volunteering-ys>.

Complete the application form and return it to emily.croucher@youthscape.co.uk at your earliest convenience.

If your application demonstrates that you meet the essential qualities and skills, you will be invited to attend an informal interview at Bute Mills.

If both parties agree that this volunteering opportunity is the right fit, appointment will be made subject to references, a satisfactory DBS check, and proof of eligibility to work in the UK.

www.youthscape.co.uk

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