

SMART WORKS NEWCASTLE

Smart Works Newcastle – Volunteer Dresser



Thank you for your interest in joining our team as a volunteer Dresser!

About us

At Smart Works Newcastle we give women the confidence, the self-belief and the practical tools they require to succeed at interview and start a new chapter in their lives. We are incredibly proud that after a visit to Smart Works, more than 60% of the women we support go on to succeed at their job interview.

At the core of the Smart Works service is a two-hour appointment, during which time each woman receives a complete outfit of high-quality clothes (theirs to keep) and dedicated one-to-one interview training. This short intervention has a significant impact as our clients start believing in their own ability to succeed.

Smart Works operates a referral process only: women will be referred from organisations such as Jobcentre Plus, work programme providers, work coaches, housing associations etc. As a volunteer you will work with a wide range of clients to help them onto their journey into employment.

All our service delivery is done by highly skilled volunteers. Their reward is seeing the impact of unlocking a woman's confidence and finding out that the woman they saw has gone on to get the job they applied for. Volunteering as a stylist is a fantastic opportunity to combine your people skills and interest in fashion/eye for style to help women in your local community regain control of their lives.

As a Smart Works stylist it is an absolute privilege to be able to help so many women dress the part for that crucial job interview - to see the effect a fabulous outfit has on their confidence is so rewarding. Diana, Volunteer Stylist, 3 years

About the role

Stylist/Dresser's work with clients to find the right clothes for their interview. Our clients range from 16 to 66+ so it is important to select an outfit that reflects a women's personal style, preferences, body type and the

specific job role. Each client that comes to Smart Works will leave with a complete interview outfit, including shoes, handbag, coat and accessories. As we now offer a virtual service we will also require stylists to put clothing parcels together to send out to clients who cannot get to us in person. As we often receive large donations of clothing our stylists are best placed to know what is needed in our dressing room so sorting, steaming and merchandising the donations is also part of the stylist's role. We sell clothing online and pop-up shops to generate an income for our service. We hope that stylists can get involved in listing clothing and curating sale stock.

To support Smart Works in a styling role you will need:

- an eye for style, interest in clothing and knows what suits different body types
- lots of patience and empathy
- the ability to communicate with women of different ages and backgrounds
- fantastic people skills and lots of energy
- Strong understanding of confidentiality
- To be a team player as you will be volunteering within a small, close knit team

Commitment

We make sure all of our volunteers are fully trained and spend time shadowing client appointments, and complete mandatory safeguarding training and a basic DBS check. We ask that you are able to commit one full day a month to volunteering in our city centre office. There will be opportunities to volunteer out of the office, at job fairs, networking events, clothing sales and much more. Commitment and enthusiasm towards these is expected on an ad hoc basis.

“The stylists and staff were both so welcoming and friendly and made me feel at ease. My stylist really listened to what I felt comfortable wearing and not wearing and found options I'd never have considered before for my future interviews.

I wore my outfit for a few interviews including the one that secured me the job and given that I didn't really have anything smart to wear that would be appropriate or that fitted it made me feel more confident than I would have done” Kaylee, Secured Job as a Marketing Executive

Application details

To apply please fill out the application form on our [Become a volunteer](#) page and send your your completed form to newcastle@smartworks.org.uk

We will be in touch in due course to explain the next steps of the recruitment process once you have completed your application form.

