

Where We Are



We provide most of our services from Sunrise Children's Centre in Southborough, with others from Sevenoaks, Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells, as well as some in the West Kent community. You can choose to volunteer in one, some or all of these locations.



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Sunrise Children's Centre

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In partnership with



London, East and South East

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Barnardo's Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC037605

Volunteer with us if you

Believe in children



Barnardo's

London, East and South East

Join Sunrise's successful, award-winning volunteer team in a highly rewarding role, supporting clubs and playschemes for 4-18 year olds with disabilities and challenging behaviours.



What We Do

The Sunrise Children's Centre is a purpose-built resource centre and short breaks unit run by Kent County Council in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. Barnardo's provides after-school and weekend clubs, and holiday playschemes, to children and young people aged 4-18 with complex learning disabilities with associated challenging behaviour, as well as those with physical disabilities. We operate our services from the centre and West Kent community and rural locations.

About Our Team

The vast majority of our work directly with children and young people is carried out by our team of Relief Project Workers and Volunteers. You will be joining a growing team of volunteers who are very highly thought of in the local area and Barnardo's nationally. In 2009 our team was awarded the Marsh Trust Award for Volunteer of the Year in the Barnardo's London, East and South East (LEaSE) region.



A Volunteer's Role

Your role will mostly consist of supporting children and young people during their time at a club. This involves spending one-on-one time with them, offering choice, providing appropriate boundaries and - most importantly - joining in with play! We stock a large array of games, books, outdoor and indoor toys, arts and crafts materials and more. The Sunrise facilities also offer a large soft play room, multisensory room, computer and video games room, young people's kitchen, Jacuzzi spa, and sensory garden complete with swings, a roundabout and go-karts. With plenty to keep the young people excited and occupied, new volunteers usually find it doesn't take too long for them to experience a little bit of everything.

Our Clubs & Playschemes

Our busiest times of year are the school holidays and half-terms, when we run our Playschemes for 8-18 year olds. We run for five days a week, offering young people five hours a day with us, filled with excitement and fun! Our main playscheme operates directly from Sunrise, with more from Sevenoaks and Cranbrook.

We also offer a number of weekend clubs for 4-18 year olds based from Sunrise, Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Sevenoaks, as well as community-based clubs (where we visit a different place in West Kent each time and young people meet us there). These are usually around four hours long and are on either a Saturday or a Sunday.

Our after-school clubs for 8-18 year olds are



Sunrise volunteers accept the Marsh Trust Award from Barnardo's LEaSE director Delroy Pomell

usually two hours long and happen at Sunrise.

Staff and volunteers arrive at least half an hour early to familiarise themselves with the young people's files and plans for the day. They also remain after the clubs to help with tidying up and writing reports.

What's Next?

Contact us with the details on the back of this leaflet to arrange an informal discussion. If you would like to pursue becoming a volunteer, you will be able to start with us as soon as satisfactory references and a CRB check are received.

You will be asked to take a short mandatory volunteer training course with us early on in your time with us. Other training may also be offered to you over time. We are a supportive team and are fully aware of the challenges faced by people who are new to this role. Support is therefore always available on an informal or formal basis. All volunteers' travel expenses are reimbursed. We look forward to welcoming you to the team!