

PSC Open House Youth Work – Background information

The Protestant Social Center (PSC) Antwerp vzw has existed since 1979 and has several sub-operations for different target groups: people on the run and in poverty. As a committed team, it works with these people and volunteers mainly on a warm welcome, walk-in, connection, tailor-made guidance and affordable and supportive housing.

The PSC Open House Youth Work wants to be there for unaccompanied newcomers between the ages of 17 and 25. They are without family in Antwerp and are (almost) adult, and that means that they often have to build a new life on their own. Because it is anything but easy to find their own way in a country where they did not grow up, the PSC tries to form a bridge.

Our operation consists of several pillars:

1. Walk-in: All young people are welcome to come by in the afternoons and two evenings, even if they have no questions. Charging your mobile phone? Read a book? Play FIFA? Listen to music and do a dance? All perfectly possible. By creating a homely atmosphere, we want to make it clear to everyone and let them experience that things are less bureaucratic with us.
2. Free time: Many newcomers from our target group want to find work as quickly as possible to send money to their family. Yet they also want to do something in which they can express themselves. At the PSC we help young people individually to find a suitable hobby and collectively by organizing group activities to explore the leisure offer in Antwerp and thus make contacts in their new society.
3. Guidance: Together with our top team of employees, interns and volunteers, we try to assist young people with the difficulties they encounter living in Antwerp. Finding an apartment? Homework assistance? Orientation towards training or work? Administration? But also in need of contact, conviviality, fun, friendship, a good conversation, pats on the back and meaning? We try to provide the best possible support with small and large questions so that they can continue on their own step by step.