

We believe that life is for living

Two vacancies:

# Community Fundraiser Fundraising & Database Officer

## About Thistle

Thistle Foundation is a long-established, pioneering Scottish health and wellbeing charity that supports people and communities to take control of their futures and achieve their aspirations regardless of health conditions or impairment. Thistle has a reputation for innovation and putting our person-centred philosophy into practice.

We are one of the few organisations in Scotland that works with the person, not the condition and we have a strong focus on our vision statement 'Life is for Living'.

## People we support

We work across the Lothians delivering services in the communities in which we work. Very often the people we work with are living life with a disability, have a long-term health condition, are living in poverty, with an addiction, or are socially isolated. We work alongside people who need our support as equal partners to realise their personal hopes by growing in confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to make a positive contribution in society.

## Our National Impact

Thistle also has national reach and influence through our training and consultancy work and our involvement in piloting and supporting Scottish Government Health and Social Care priorities. We work collaboratively and in partnership with many organisations who share our vision as well as with local authorities, communities, those running projects and initiatives, other charities and service providers.

## How we're funded

We have a turnover of £7.62 million with income from sources including Local Authorities, Scottish Government, trusts, and fundraising (individuals, community and corporate groups). Financial sustainability is a strategic priority for us.

## What We Do

Thistle employs over 400 people and we have more than 50 volunteers. The majority of our staff are Personal Assistants working from people's homes. Others are Wellbeing Practitioners based at our Centre of Wellbeing or in the community. We also have a small head-office team supporting the services we provide, which include:

**Supporting people in their own homes:** In 2017, Thistle provided over 250,000 hours of support. We support 120 people located across the Lothians. Our support is tailored to the individual and can range from just a few hours a day to 24/7.

We focus on the importance of "getting a great life" and the opportunity to make a civic contribution regardless of the extent or complexity of a person's condition. We are currently embedding a way of working that is based on personal outcomes linked to a personal budget rather than a set number of hours of support.



**Work with Young People:** Thistle pioneered the development of a programme that today supports young people at special schools in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Fife, Argyll and Bute to work with their families in large groups to plan for life after school. We call this the 'Big Plan' and because of its success, we are exploring the potential for supporting other marginalised young people at points of transition.

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**Supported Self-Management and Lifestyle:** We work with over 500 people per year who are struggling to live with a long term health condition or who are going through a difficult time in their lives. We support people through courses and activities to develop self-management and coping skills to transition successfully to managing their symptoms so they can focus on living life.

For most of the people participating in our programmes, they become more hopeful, improve in confidence, get a greater sense of control, start to rebuild relationships and - as their lives improve - they move on. Some people stay with us as volunteers and become co-facilitators on our lifestyle management programmes, or provide other forms of peer support.



**Thistle Learning:** Bringing together the knowledge and learning from across Thistle's services and support provision, we have developed a unique range of person-centred, asset-based, outcomes-focused training programmes.

Our training programmes are used both internally and as courses for health and social care practitioners working across the country within the statutory and third sector and in partnership with NHS Boards, Local Authorities, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Scottish Government as well as third sector agencies.

For more information or an informal conversation about the role please contact William Oviatt, Fundraising Manager at [william.oviatt@thistle.org.uk](mailto:william.oviatt@thistle.org.uk). Closing date for applications for both roles is Thursday 28 February 2019. Interviews will take place in early March.

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**Our Values**

All our staff are driven by the same core values that guide our operational work.

Excellence for Thistle is our ability to bring a person-centred and asset-based approach to all our work.

We have an emphasis on continuous improvement and retaining a highly-engaged workforce. We seek to be a pioneering and innovative organisation where staff can work in highly flexible, collaborative and responsive ways.

We give people the opportunity to work with us to make a difference. Our people are passionate about and committed to the work of the organisation.

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**Community Fundraiser,  
Fundraising & Database Officer**

Both roles will be based in Edinburgh and report to the Fundraising Manager.

This is an exciting time for Thistle and an opportunity to join our growing Development team.

You will be joining us at a crucial stage of our development and this is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a supportive, ambitious and friendly team that is responsible for delivering income targets and increasing brand awareness; essential tasks for the continued success of the organisation.

As we approach our 75th anniversary you will be playing a crucial role to ensure that people living with the devastating diagnosis of a long-term condition continue to receive the support they desperately need.