



Autism Link Worker

Salary: £24 000 pro rata
Hours: 21 hrs per week
Location: Based in Glasgow, some travel to Ayrshire and Edinburgh

What we do

Equal Futures works to improve social inclusion for adults with learning disabilities or autism. The individual identifies what they want help with. This might include doing more social activities or providing emotional and practical support during a time of change.

We match each person with a volunteer facilitator who shares their interests. The initial focus is on befriending. The next step is finding activities to do in community settings; ideally welcoming places where friendships can be made.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated individual with extensive experience and understanding of autism. You will work closely with our staff team and volunteers to support autistic people to develop social and communication skills and build confidence.

There are additional difficulties many autistic people face in becoming socially included. The successful candidate will value small breakthroughs as meaningful triumphs. You will help to transform the lives of autistic people to live more independently, enjoy a better quality of life and play an active role in their community.

Our Vision

Everyone has friendships which are based on kindness, compassion and respect.

Our Mission

To work alongside people to reduce loneliness and social isolation

Our Values

- We are committed to positive relationships.
- Making a sustainable difference.
- Social inclusion for everyone

Job purpose

To reduce loneliness and isolation for autistic people by developing inclusive communities. Raising awareness and improving understanding in society so that communities work for people with autism. Supporting staff team and volunteers to support autistic people responsively. Working alongside autistic people to develop innovative solutions to suit the needs of each individual.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience and understanding of a range of flexible approaches which support autistic people• Ability to design and deliver training for volunteers on autism awareness• Confident in networking and building relationships in a range of settings• Excellent planning and organisational skills• A self-starter who can sustain motivation when working alone• Ability to find own solutions to overcome challenges• Ability to communicate effectively with a small team who are based across multiple locations• Full driving license with access to car	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to use evaluation tools and data collection methods• Good working knowledge of relevant policy and procedures for volunteering roles• Knowledge of community amenities which are inclusive for autistic people• Knowledge of effective engagement using social media

Experience

- Significant experience of working with autistic people, either paid or unpaid
- Evidence of supporting autistic people to achieve their goals
- Evidence of achieving high standards of work and successful outcomes
- Working in partnership with other organisations or agencies effectively

Personal attributes

- Enthusiastic about making a positive contribution to communities
- Resilience and patience to find solutions which work for autistic individuals
- Able to engage effectively with people in a range of settings
- Energised by creating new ways of working and making it happen

Role and key responsibilities

Flexibility:

- There is some scope for flexibility in fulfilling the 21 hrs per week.
- Willingness to work occasional evenings and weekends when required.
- Some travel required to meet with autistic people, families and volunteers.
- When appropriate, telephone calls or Skype to offer guidance and support

Key functions and responsibilities

- Establish relationships with organisations and agencies to generate referrals for autistic adults
- Build a network of community resources, improving public awareness of autism
- Work closely with Project Coordinators to respond to autistic people's needs
- Contribute to policies and processes to support autistic people effectively
- Share good practice with staff team on working with autistic people
- Develop and deliver training on autism awareness to volunteers

Work alongside people with autism to reduce loneliness and social isolation:

- Work closely with the autistic person, their family and matched volunteer to develop strategies to support social inclusion
- Negotiate with the autistic person and their family to expand access to community amenities and activities
- Build strong relationships with autistic individuals to offer responsive support
- Provide ongoing guidance to volunteers on skills to support autistic people

Work effectively as a team member:

- Participate and contribute in team meetings, supervision and training
- Collaborate with Director and team on tasks
- Bring ideas and solutions to improve delivery and achieve outcomes
- Complete relevant assessments, reviews and evaluations
- Complete administrative tasks with attention to detail

The post holder may be required to perform additional duties not listed here which are relevant to being effective in the role of Autism Link Worker