# SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION GRADUATE INTERN

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Midlothian is a small local authority, made up of a series of small market towns and a semi-rural area. The is strong cooperative working between the third sector and statutory agencies, with the Network providing an important meeting place to discuss and progress issues relating to poverty and exclusion.

The Graduate Intern will be expected to work on their own initiative to support and develop the work of Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network and Midlothian Voluntary Action, particularly relating to food and digital exclusion. The postholder will be employed by MVA, on behalf of the two organisations. As this is an internship, there will also be an expectation that the postholder will undertaken regular personal development activity.

## Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network (MFIN)

Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network (MFIN) is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. We are run by a Board of Directors, which includes representatives from the local Citizens’ Advice Bureaux, food bank, and Third Sector Interface. [Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network – Information for people facing financial crisis in Midlothian (mfin.org.uk)](http://www.mfin.org.uk/)

MFIN’s objective, as outlined in its Memorandum of Association is:

To relieve poverty and to advance public education in all matters relating to the management of personal finances.

The Network meetings are well attended, with a range of third sector and statutory agencies participating. We meet every six weeks, and meetings are currently taking place online.

Due to the changes brought about by Covid, two of the key issues we are currently involved in are digital exclusion and food insecurity.

More information about our past activities can be found on our website: <http://www.mfin.org.uk/>

## Midlothian Digital Steering Group

The Steering Group brings together staff working in digital in third sector organisations, Midlothian Council, and the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership, to coordinate and develop digital activity and inclusion. It meets approximately every two months.

## Midlothian Food and Health Alliance

Midlothian Food Alliance works together to help local organisations address food insecurity and promote eating well through community approaches in Midlothian.

## Midlothian Third Sector Interface (TSI)

Midlothian TSI consists of Midlothian Voluntary Action, Volunteer Midlothian and the Social Enterprise Alliance Midlothian.

Midlothian Voluntary Action represents the interests of the third sector in community planning, and brings the sector together around issues of common interest. The postholder will support some key meetings facilitated by MVA, including the Third Sector Forum, and the Third Sector Children’s Services Network. [Midlothian Third Sector Interface (thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk)](https://www.thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk/)