

Invitation to being part of Social Action Inquiry as Guides

Do you want to live in a Scotland where communities can make positive differences to their way of life? A Scotland that values social action and helps to make it happen?

What is Social Action?

Social action is time freely spent with others to tackle local problems, negotiate with public services, and improve conditions that benefit all. (Definition taken from nationalvoices.org)

What is the Social Action Inquiry?

The Social Action Inquiry is being set up to find out more about how communities can take action that makes a difference. It will look at what helps, and what gets in the way. It's hoped that it will help influence how Scotland rebuilds after the coronavirus pandemic.

The Inquiry's vision is:

A Scotland which recognises the value of social action and its potential to enable us to overcome the challenges we face in the 21st century.

This independent inquiry will be led by people with direct, lived experience of Scottish communities who have felt powerlessness over decisions affecting their own lives, and that this power has been exercised by others. This might be, for example, experience of childhood trauma, homelessness or poverty, experience of racial inequity, economic or educational disadvantage or living with a disability. It will support people to find their voice, take action, and use what they learn to help create wider change. In the light of COVID-19, this work is more important than ever. For more details, please see our website – socialaction.scot

To help the Inquiry we are inviting people to become Guides.

What is a Guide?

A Guide is someone who is willing to help shape the direction of the inquiry by adding their voice and experience into the inquiry process. This role is based on the idea of collective knowledge and partnerships where guides provide insights and advice from lived experience with challenging assumptions openly and respectfully about how systems work or don't.

What will a Guide do?

The Co-chairs and Co-Leads (the core team) bring their own lived experiences and assets to the Inquiry. To allow for the Inquiry to undertake a more inclusive and sustainable journey we think the role of the guides has the potential to impact the process in the following ways:

1. Help with untangling blockages, seeing the challenges through different eyes and how to navigate through these

2. Help with defining and selecting of community hubs
3. As a sounding board for the Inquiry's plans and aspirations
4. Bringing a broad representation of diverse life experiences to the demography of the social action guiding panel
5. Participate in events that strengthen the ability of the panel to represent and support the development of social action
6. Provide access to talent/assets that the core team would otherwise not be able to have
7. Sharing information from the inquiry across their community and networks
8. Providing input to the development of the Inquiry and communities
9. Help in identifying and managing risks
10. Challenging the core team through alternate (maybe even unpopular and sometimes controversial) views/arguments/suggestions

How often will the Guides meet?

The Guides will meet once a month for one full day.

This meet will be online or in-person.

The Guides will be offered £200 per day for their time or equivalent vouchers if this is more suitable.

The Inquiry can assist with bridging extra costs which would otherwise prevent a Guide from attending the meetings.

How long will the role last?

The Social Action Inquiry will last until December 2023.

The panel of Guides will be reviewed every six months. This is to ensure diverse perspectives can contribute into the Inquiry.

I would like to be a Guide. How do I do that?

We hope that there are lots of people who want to be a Guide.

To make this fair we are asking people to apply.

You can choose to do that in four different ways:

1. Write your answers on our application form (attached below).
2. Write a personal statement (no more than 1000 words) telling us why you would like to be a Guide.
3. Send us a video, no longer than 10 minutes, telling us why you would like to be a Guide.
4. Send us an audio file, no longer than 10 minutes, telling us why you would like to be a guide.

We have chosen these four different ways because we know writing applications can be difficult for people. Some people prefer to use other ways. We would like to invite them to apply too.

Whichever way you choose to apply we would like you to answer these questions.

1. Can you describe a piece of social action, locally or elsewhere, you have been part of or that has inspired you?
2. What kind of world do you want to live in? What are you doing to try and make that happen?
3. Why do you want to be a Guide for the Social Action Inquiry?
4. What experiences can you bring to the team? How do you think sharing these experiences with the Inquiry will help you, your community and social action in Scotland?
5. What does 'being furthest from power' mean to you? Can you speak of any instances you or someone you know have been absent/distant/powerless from decisions affecting your/their own lives? What could be done differently?
6. If you are invited to an interview, is there any support you would need (e.g., IT access or accessibility support)?
7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications are open until 12:00 noon on the 22nd of October.

We will let people know if they are being invited to an interview by the 29th of October

Interviews will be arranged for the week beginning the 1st of November.

How to submit your application

A copy of the application can be downloaded from our good moves job advert page or the [Social Action Inquiry website](#).

Completed written applications should be sent to hello@socialaction.scot

Video and Audio Files should be sent by [WeTransfer](#) or via the communication platforms Telegram or Whatsapp to 07867 181 040. Alongside this, please send a confirmation email to hello@socialaction.scot informing us which platform you have used to submit your application.

If you're interested and would like to chat about the role and whether they might be right for you we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Darryl Gaffney du Plooy or Deborah Menezes, Co-leads of the Social Action Inquiry by emailing hello@socialaction.scot