

Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau



Post Available

Job Title:	Advice Worker
Location:	Union Street, Inverness
Hours/Days per week:	Full-time or Part-time (between 21 and 35 hours per week)
Type of contract:	Permanent
Salary:	£22,640 per annum (pro rata)

The Application Process

Closing Date:	12pm on 10 July 2023
Interviews:	Week commencing 17 July 2023
Email applications to:	admin@invernesscab.org

About Us

Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey CAB is an independent charity providing advice, information and support to people across our community. We are a friendly team of over 60 employees and volunteers working over 3 locations (Inverness, Raigmore and Aviemore) delivering a busy advice service. We strive to deliver a good quality service that meets the needs of our clients in a non-judgemental and confidential manner. We aim for individuals not to suffer through not knowing or understanding their rights and responsibilities or not being aware of the services available to them. We provide advice and options to our clients so that they can make informed decision and feel empowered to improve their personal circumstance.

Purpose of the Role

As an Advice Worker, you will have an interesting and rewarding role giving advice on a range of topics but in particular Universal Credit and benefits. You will work as part of a supportive team ensuring our clients receive a holistic service enabling them to exercise their rights and access the benefits and services they are entitled to.

At IBS CAB you will have the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge in a range of topics (e.g. housing, debt, employment) as well as developing your skills and experience. You will be supported through an extensive initial training programme and encouraged to continually develop during your time with us.

Key Responsibilities

Advice Giving

- Interview clients over the phone and/or through video conference and/or face to face to gather relevant information about their circumstance and the issue(s) they seek help with.
- Research the topic to identify options and potential action for the client
- Explain simply and concisely the options available to the client so that they can make an informed decision
- Offer practical help such as calculating benefits, supporting client to claim Universal Credit, reduce their energy consumption, reviewing their energy bills and by contacting other agencies on behalf of the client
- Liaise with specialist teams within the bureau on complex issues and on-going casework and ensure we are providing a holistic advice service
- Refer clients to other agencies and 3rd sector organisation for specialist support and advice
- Record each contact with the client on the CAB database
- Ensure advice given meets the standard expected and this is reflected in case records

Social Policy

- Identify issues brought to the bureau by clients which may have a wider social policy impact and needs further action at a local or national basis
- Record social policy issues on the case recording database
- Provide case studies to be used for highlighting social policy issues and for evidencing the work of the bureau

Case Management

- Manage workload by prioritising enquiries and casework and report back to manager on progress
- Use case recording database and other IT systems to ensure follow up action is taken within timescales

Data handling and Confidentiality

- Adhere to data protection regulations and ensure that special category data is handled in accordance with relevant legislation and organisational procedures
- Abide by Citizens Advice confidentiality policy

Working with Others

- Develop and maintain good working relationships with the team, share knowledge and information and make a positive contribution by working proactively toward delivering a good service for our clients
- Provide encouragement and support to our team of volunteers and contribute to their positive volunteering experience
- Develop and maintain good working relationships with external stakeholders, including statutory, non-statutory and voluntary service providers

- Embrace our equality and diversity principles by treating everyone as individuals and with respect at all times

Training & Development

- Be proactive in identifying own training needs and taking responsibility for personal development
- Keep knowledge up to date on legislation relevant to the post and of local issues and policies
- Seek support from manager and participate in supervision and appraisal meetings. Use feedback constructively to further knowledge and skills

General

- Adhere to all IBS CAB policies and procedures
- Be willing to carry out any other related tasks, as required by your manager, which are compatible with the functions of the post.

Person Specification

This role would suit an individual who is enthusiastic to gain new knowledge and learn new skills. You may be at the start of your career, returning to work after a break or simply looking for a change in direction.

What is important to us is that you:

- Want to advise and help a broad range of people particularly those who are disadvantaged
- Have good communication skills and are comfortable talking to a diverse range of people over the phone, through webchat and face to face
- Are able to build positive relationships with clients, colleagues, volunteers and external contacts, including energy companies
- Willing to have difficult and/or sensitive conversations
- Have a practical and common-sense approach with the ability to manage others expectations
- Are enthusiastic about learning and gaining new skills, knowledge and experience
- Wish to achieve a good standard of work
- Are organised and able to prioritise and meet deadlines
- Have a competent standard of written English that will allow you to complete comprehensive case records, produce correspondence such as emails and letters and complete forms on client's behalf
- Have a competent standard of maths/arithmetic that allows you to complete basic calculations such as benefits checks, energy statement calculations and income and expenditure reports
- Are able to research information and are keen to solve problems
- Are confident in using IT systems
- Are interested in the work of CAB and associated social policy issues

Other Requirements

Please note that this post is subject to the completion of a criminal records declaration and a satisfactory Basic Disclosure check.

How to apply

Applications should be downloaded directly from a link on the advertising site.

For further information, please contact:

Business Support Administrator
Inverness Badenoch & Strathspey CAB
29-31 Union Street
Inverness
IV1 1QA
E-mail: admin@invernesscab.org