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Candidate Information Booklet

Community Project Officer

(Fixed Term Contract)

Ref: CPO/10/2018

Cllosing date for applications:

12 noon on Wednesday 17th October 2018



***“A project supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).”***

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**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title: Community Project Officer**

**Duration: Fixed Term Contract**

**Hours: 37.5 hour per week post**

**Salary: £26,822**

**Responsible to: Project Manager**

**Location: North Belfast**

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**Summary**

Ashton Community Trust manages a broad portfolio of funds and programmes that aim to tackle poverty, unemployment, health inequalities, community development and childcare. Ashton Community Trust is acting as lead partner in Peace IV Project called ‘Building Positive Relations’ funded under the EU Peace IV Programme.

**Job Purpose**

The Community Project Officer will be part of a team that will be responsible for grant management, project monitoring and providing support and guidance to project partners. He/she will also engage in collective peace-building work with the project partners on the Peace IV programme ‘Building Positive Relations’. The Community Project Officer will be expected to travel extensively across Northern Ireland and the South of Ireland.

**Summary of Main Responsibilities**

* To monitor project partners to ensure they meet relevant EU regulations and the requirements of the SEUPB Letter of Offer and the targets and objectives of their Service Level Agreement and to provide guidance if difficulties arise;
* To carry out a Systems Review Visit to project partners to ensure that all necessary policies and procedures are in place as required by the SEUPB Letter of Offer, Partnership Agreement and Service Level Agreement;
* To engage in collective peace-building work with project partners and attend relevant events as required;
* To assist in the identification of training and support needs of project partners, including the support needs of project staff and committee members;
* To contribute to the compilation of monitoring data and project information for submission to the SEUPB and to the Board of Ashton Community Trust;
* To assist in the overall administration of the Peace IV project and with related financial, monitoring and evaluation processes;
* To ensure that project partners who have completed their part of the project have complied with all of the relevant requirements and that all financial and non-financial monitoring information has been submitted and is correct;
* To write reports relating to the Peace IV projects and to contribute to policy initiatives related to the project;
* To encourage contact and networking between local groups and relevant agencies and promote good community development and community relations practice;
* To liaise with other social action, community relations and community development support agencies to maintain up to date information on what is available and to avail of networking opportunities;
* To work closely with finance staff to ensure that project partners are meeting the financial monitoring requirements of the project;
* To work as part of the team and project staff to ensure that the requirements of the Letters of Offer from the SEUPB and relevant government departments are met;
* To attend Peace IV team meetings, and other meetings as and when required;
* To undertake any relevant training that may be recommended;
* To carry out all other duties in furtherance of the post as may be required by the Project Manager;

This Job Description is not intended to comprehensively list the responsibilities of the post, but to indicate at this stage what appear to be the essential requirements of the post.



**Person Specification**

**Essential Criteria**

1. A minimum of three years’ experience of community development and/or community relations to include experience of the following:

* Financial Management
* Monitoring and Evaluation processes
* Working with voluntary committees

2. Relevant experience and knowledge of the community and voluntary sector, strategic planning and basic social research.

3. Proven ability to communicate orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner.

4. Administrative and report writing experience.

5. IT literate with competency in the use of MS Office and Outlook.

6. Proven ability to draw out the policy implications of grant programmes.

7. Full driving licence and access to a form of transport to enable travel across Northern Ireland and the South of Ireland.

**Desirable Criteria**

1. A degree, or other third level qualification, in a relevant discipline.

2. Ability to work with a minimum of supervision and to tight deadlines.

3. Previous experience of the use of databases.

1. Previous experience of the management of EU grants and knowledge of EU monitoring requirements for EU grant-funded projects.

**Work Related Circumstances**

1. A willingness to work unsocial hours where necessary

2. A willingness to work in all areas and communities within Northern Ireland.

**Guidance for Making your Application**

The application form is designed to ensure that applicants provide the necessary information to determine how they meet the competition requirements and the essential/desirable criteria.

* The space available on the application form is the same for all applicants and must not be altered.
* Ashton Community Trust will not accept CV’s, letters, or any other supplementary material in place of or in addition to, completed application forms.
* Applicants must complete the application form in black ink or typescript.
* Applicants must not reformat their application form.
* Information in support of your application will not be accepted after the closing date for receipt of applications.
* Relevant or equivalent qualifications – if you believe your qualification is equivalent to the one required, the onus is on you to provide the panel with details of modules studied, etc. so the panel can make a well-informed decision.
* It is essential that all applicants demonstrate on their application form how and to what extent their experience and skills are relevant to this post and the extent to which they satisfy each of the essential and desirable criterion specified. If you do not provide sufficient detail, including the appropriate dates needed to meet the criteria, the selection panel will reject your application.
* The examples you provide should be concise and relevant to the criteria. This is very important as these may be discussed at interview and you may need to be prepared to talk about them in detail if you are invited to interview. It is your unique role that the panel are interested in, not that of your team or division.
* Ashton Community Trust will not make assumptions from the title of the applicants post or the nature of the organisation, as to the skills and experience gained.

**Application Form Submission**

* Completed applications can be submitted by:
	+ Email to HR@ashtoncentre.com, by post or delivered by hand to HR, McSweeney Centre, 25 – 27 Henry Place, Belfast, BT15 2AY.
* We will not accept incomplete application forms; application forms received after the closing deadline or reformatted application forms.
* Please only return the application form, monitoring form and Disclosure of Criminal Convictions Form.
* Applicants using Royal Mail should note that 1st class mail does not guarantee next day delivery. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that sufficient postage has been paid to return the form to Ashton Community Trust to meet the required deadlines.
* Ashton Community Trust will not accept application forms where there has been a shortfall in postage.
* Should you have any queries please contact HR on 02890 322289 or email at HR@ashtoncentre.com.

**Interview Guidance for Applicants**

At interview, the selection panel will assess candidates against the competencies, qualifications and experience for the post.

If this is your first experience of a competence-based interview, bear in mind that it does not require you to:

* Talk through previous jobs from start to finish
* Provide generalised information as to your background and experience.
* Provide information that is not specifically relevant to the competence the question is designed to test.

A competence based interview does however require you to:

* Focus exclusively, in your responses, on your ability to fulfil the competences required for the effective performance in the role.
* Provide specific examples of your experience in relation to the required competence areas.

**Disability Requirements**

Ashton Community Trust will ask on the application form if you require any reasonable adjustments, due to disability, to enable you to attend any part of the assessment process. Details of any disability are only used for this purpose and do not form part of the selection process. If you are successful in the selection process and are being considered for appointment, you may be required to outline any adjustments you consider necessary in order for you to take up appointment. If you wish to discuss your disability requirements further, please contact HR on 02890 742255.

**Feedback**

Ashton Community Trust is committed to providing feedback in respect to decisions taken in determining eligibility/shortlisting as well as at interview. Feedback will be communicated on receipt of a written request.

**Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form**

**Please note this form is regarded as part of your application and failure to complete and return it will result in disqualification.**

The information is used for monitoring purposes only. All applications for employment are considered strictly on the basis of merit.

Ashton Community Trust complies with relevant Equal Opportunities legislation and policies.

Please complete the monitoring form and return in a separate envelope marked ‘Monitoring Officer’.

Prior to appointment with Ashton Community Trust the following will be required:

* Proof of qualifications
* Proof of eligibility to work in the UK
* Personal ID
* ACCESS NI check depending on role.

Ashton Community Trust complies with Access NI Code of Practice, which can be downloaded from <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/accessni-code-of-practice.pdf>

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**Confidential**

Ashton Community Trust

Ashton Centre, 5 Churchill Street, Belfast BT15 2BP

**Employment Application Form Application Number: CPO/10/2018**

Please complete this application form in **black ink or** **typescript** and return it on or before the closing date stated. Late applications will not be accepted. Only information provided on this application form will be considered by the panel. CV’s will not be accepted.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Post applied for:** | **Community Project Officer (Fixed Term Contract)** |  |  |
| **Hours:** | **37.5 hours per week** |
| **Closing Date and Time:** | **Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 12 noon** |

**Personal Details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Surname:** | **Telephone Number (Home):** |
|  |  |
| **Forename(s):** | **Telephone Number (Mobile):** |
|  |  |
| **Title:** | **Email Address:** |
|  |  |
| **Address:** | **Postcode:** |
| **NI Number:** |  |
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**Relevant Qualifications and/or Professional Membership**

Original proof of qualifications will be requested if recommended for appointment

 (Please continue on a separate sheet of necessary)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Examination level** **(for example, GCSE/’A’ Level/Degree/NVQ** | **Subject(s)** | **Grade** | **Date Gained** |
|  |  |  |  |
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| **Professional Qualifications** | **Registration Body/Number** |  | **Date Gained** |
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**Employment History**

Please give details of jobs that you have held, starting with your present or most recent employer and work backwards, in chronological order. Include in this section any breaks in employment history for example, caring responsibilities, travelling or returning to study, registered unemployment and temporary/voluntary employment. (Please continue on a separate sheet if required)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and Address of Employer and Nature of Business** | **From**  | **To** | **Job Title:** | **Final Salary and Reason for Leaving** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Notice required if offered the position for which you have applied?** |

**Training**

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| **Details of relevant training courses attended and awards achieved, including dates if appropriate** |
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**Suitability for this position**

Please detail your suitability for this position under the relevant headings below, describing how your experience and knowledge relates to the job description and person specification.You must ensure that you provide sufficient information on the application form to enable the selection panel to assess your eligibility at shortlisting.

|  |
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| **Essential Criteria** |
| 1. **Please tell the panel about your** **minimum of three years’ experience of community development and/or community relations to include experience of the following:**
* **Financial Management**
* **Monitoring and Evaluation processes**
* **Working with voluntary committees**
 |
| 1. **Please tell the panel about your experience and knowledge of the community and voluntary sector, strategic planning and basic social research**
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| 1. **Please demonstrate your ability to communicate orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner**
 |
| 1. **Please provide the panel with examples of your administrative and report writing experience;**
 |
| 1. **Please demonstrate to the panel that you are IT literate with competency in the use of MS Office and Outlook;**
 |
| 1. **Please demonstrate your ability to draw out the policy implications of grant programmes**
 |
| 1. **Please detail that you have a full driving licence and access t o a form of transport to enable travel across Northern Ireland and the South of Ireland;**
 |
| **Desirable Criteria**  |
| 1. **Do you have a degree, or third level qualification, in a relevant discipline? If yes, please detail;**
 |
| 1. **Please demonstrate your ability to work with a minimum of supervision and to tight deadlines;**
 |
| 1. **Please detail your experience with the use of databases;**
 |
| 1. **Do you have previous experience of the management of EU grants and knowledge of EU monitoring requirements for EU grant-funded projects? Please detail;**
 |
| I confirm that the information I have given is accurate and complete, as misleading or false statements will result in the withdrawal of the offer of employment, or if employed dismissal.**Signed…………………………………………………Date…………………………………..** |
|  |
| **Data Protection Act:** |
| Under the Data Protection Act 1998, Ashton Community Trust is required to notify applicants and prospective employees on how their personal data will be processed and used. This application form, excluding the equal opportunities monitoring form, will be retained by Ashton Community trust for a maximum period of 12 months, unless you are the successful applicant for the post, in which case the application form will become part of your employee record. Some of the data you provide is considered to be Sensitive Personal Data under the Data Protection Act 1998; this information will be used to assist us with recruitment monitoring. It will be held separately from application forms and will be retained for a three-year period under obligations arising from the NI Equality Legislation, it will also be held electronically.By signing this form you are giving consent to Ashton Community Trust to use this data in the way described above.**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| **Personal Statement:** |
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| Ashton Community Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. The Trust encourages applications from people with disabilities and will not preclude full consideration of your application as a result of your disability. In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act a person is disabled if they have, or have had, “a physical or mental impairment which has, or has had, a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. Do you consider yourself to have, or, have had a disability that is relevant to your job application? **Yes/No** If you have answered yes, is there anything we should know about your disability or requirements in order to: * Process your application fairly,
* Make any specific arrangements for your interview, and
* Make any necessary reasonable adjustments or adaptations, or provide any aids to assist you in completing the duties of the post.

Provide details:  |

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**Private and Confidential**

The following pages will not be used as part of the selection process as they contain information that is strictly private and confidential.

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| **Referees** |
| Please give full details of two people (not relatives) that we can approach for references, one of which must be your current or most recent employer, if you have never been employed before please list details of someone who would know you in a voluntary or academic capacity. Please ensure that your referees are aware of this application, and, also, if you are providing us with their email address, that you obtain your referee’s permission to do so. References must be satisfactory to Ashton Community Trust |

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| **Reference** |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Occupation:** |  |
| **Full Address:** |  |
| **Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Reference** |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Occupation** |  |
| **Full Address:** |  |
| **Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |

I give Ashton Community Trust the right to investigate all references and to secure additional information about me, if job related. I hereby release from liability the employer and its representatives for seeking such information and all other persons, corporations or organizations for furnishing such information. I have read and understood the requirements and particulars for the job, which have been supplied to me. I further understand that the job offer may be subject to the satisfactory outcome of references and/or a satisfactory Access NI Disclosure.

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| I confirm that the information I have given is accurate and complete, as misleading or false statements will result in the withdrawal of the offer of employment, or if employed dismissal.**Signed…………………………………………………Date…………………………………..** |

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**MONITORING FORM JOB REFERENCE NO: CPO/10/18**

**MONITORING QUESTIONNAIRE UNDER THE ASHTON COMMUNITY TRUST’S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

**IN CONFIDENCE, USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

I am a member of the Protestant community

I am a member of the Roman Catholic community

I am not a member of either the Protestant or the Roman Catholic

community

**2**  **ETHNIC ORIGIN**

WhiteBlack Other

Irish TravellerChinese

Pakistani Indian

Black CaribbeanMixed Group

Black AfricanOther

**3** **GENDER**

Female Male

**4** **MARITAL STATUS**

Married Single Widowed Separated Cohabiting Civil

 Partnership

**5** **DISABILITY**

Under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1995* you are deemed to be a disabled person if you have cancer, multiple sclerosis or HIV infection.

Also, you are deemed to be a disabled person if you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Do you consider that you are a disabled person?**

Yes:  No: 

**If you answered “yes”, please indicate the nature of your impairment by ticking the appropriate box or boxes below:**

**Physical impairment**, such as difficulty using

your arms, or mobility issues requiring you to use

a wheelchair or crutches:

**Sensory impairment**, such as being blind or

having a serious visual impairment, or being deaf

or having a serious hearing impairment:

**Mental health condition**, such as depression

or schizophrenia:

**Learning disability or difficulty**, such as

Down’s Syndrome or dyslexia, or **Cognitive impairment**,

such as autistic spectrum disorder:

**Long-standing or progressive illness or health condition**,

such as cancer, HIV infection, diabetes, epilepsy or

chronic heart disease:

**Other** (please specify):

…………

**When you have completed this questionnaire, please return it to:**

**The Monitoring Officer,**

**ASHTON COMMUNITY TRUST,**

**25 – 27 HENRY PLACE, BELFAST BT15 2AY**

*Access to this information will be strictly controlled and will not be seen by the shortlisting panel. Monitoring will involve the use of statistical summaries of information in which identities of the individuals will not appear. The information will not be available for any other purposes other than equal opportunities monitoring. The information will subsequently be transferred to the monitoring system operated by the Monitoring Officer. There it will be strictly controlled in accordance with the Data Protection Code of Practice. Please note that it is an offence for any person to give false information to another who is seeking that information in order to make a monitoring return.*





