



Take Part in Teesdale – Project Support Worker Brief

We are looking for an experienced freelance Project Support Worker to support Northern Heartland's 'Take Part in Teesdale' project.

Project Overview

'Take Part in Teesdale' is a creative arts project for adults, which is part of Northern Heartland's Health and Wellbeing strand of work. The project will take place in Butterknowle, Cockfield, Evenwood and Woodland in Teesdale between 15th April 2024 and January 2025.

Sessions will take place in one venue, in one village, for five weeks at a time and move to the next village consecutively. Sessions will likely run on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3pm.

The sessions will be guided by a number of different artists, and may include some sessions where the group are given some creative activity to do without an artist to oversee them.

The programme will offer a range of creative stimulus for individuals that encourages engagement, increases confidence and develops creativity to improve health and wellbeing.

Activity could involve collaborative artwork, connection to aspects of local interest, making work to exhibit, visits and engaging stimulus for creative projects/enquiries as part of the weekly sessional programme. We would like to encourage curiosity and wonder through an enquiry-based approach.

We imagine that individuals may attend activity over a period of time, and may attend more than one venue during the lifetime of the project. Due to the nature of circumstances, individuals may not be in a position to attend every session. New referrals may also join the group during the life of the programme. Activity will be designed to be inclusive and offer a way in for new individuals as and when they join.

We are looking for someone who will:

- Be a friendly, familiar face at every session to meet and greet participants, make them feel welcome and support them to take part
- Meet and greet the artist at each session, and support the artist to set up the space, which may include setting up tables and chairs and clearing the room away at the end of the session
- Liaise with venue staff whilst on site as and when required
- Ensure participant registration forms are complete to capture participant details
- Ensure evaluation forms are completed as and when required (with guidance from the Northern Heartlands staff team) and support participants to complete these where appropriate
- Follow Northern Heartlands risk assessments and health and safety policies and procedures to ensure that activities can take place safely
- Effectively communicate with the Northern Heartlands staff team and other partners such as Social Prescribing Link Workers, venue staff etc including providing the Northern Heartlands staff team with regular updates about participants needs and progress
- Support the artist to create the conditions for individuals to develop their own creative practice and enquiry



We are ideally looking for someone who has:

- An understanding of the role that creativity and the arts can have in improving health and wellbeing
- Experience of working with adults who have a range of needs and abilities, or who may be living with poor mental health challenges
- Excellent communication and teamworking skills, and a supportive, friendly, approachable manner
- Good organisational and administrative skills including good time keeping and the ability to maintain accurate records
- An enhanced DBS dated within the last 3 years (desirable)
- Mental Health First Aid Training (desirable)
- Knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding (desirable)
- Access to their own transport as some of the village locations do not have regular public transport

We will provide:

- a dedicated member of the Northern Heartlands staff team who will oversee the management of the project, who will be your main point of contact and who will support you in your role to ensure the project runs smoothly
- Training and support before beginning the role, including Mental Health First Aid training if needed
- the opportunity to work alongside Northern Heartlands, to help shape our work and develop our practice
- the opportunity to work alongside freelance artists and creative facilitators
- A fee of £80 each week for 3 hours work. This includes 2 hours of session time as well as 30 minutes before and after each session to help set up and clear down the space and other administrative duties as required. The project will run for approximately 40 weeks
- The opportunity to work an additional 8 session dates (these dates will be planned in advance in consultation with the Project Support Worker to identify suitable dates) which may include site visits, celebration events such as exhibitions or sharings

Background:

Northern Heartlands is an arts charity and Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation based in Rural County Durham bringing the creativity of artists together with individuals, community groups, schools and partner organisations. Together, we create performances, activities and events that can change how people feel about themselves, the places where they live, and what happens there. Our current work focuses on Connecting Communities, Health and Wellbeing and Landscape and Environment. In 2021 Northern Heartlands received funding from the National Academy for Social Prescribing and Arts Council England 'Thriving Communities' fund. We have been exploring ways of working with the aim of improving participants health and wellbeing and reducing loneliness and isolation. Take Part in Teesdale is funded by the Department of Culture Media and Sport through Know Your Neighbourhood funding.

What is social prescribing?

Social Prescribing is part of the NHS Universal Personalised Care strategy and aims to connect people with practical and emotional support in their community that could help to improve their mental and physical health. GPs refer patients to a Social Prescribing Link Workers, who spends time with the person and try to match them with support and activities for their needs and interests.



To apply:

The deadline for applying for this role is 5pm on Monday 4th March.

Please submit a covering letter (no more than 2 sides of A4) to include the following:

- Why you would like to be considered for the work
- Any relevant skills or experience you have and how these are suited to the role
- The names of two referees
- A copy of your CV.

Please send your application to info@northernheartlands.org or contact us with any further enquiries.

Shortlisting will take place on Tuesday 5th March.

We will notify you if you are successful/unsuccessful at this stage on Wednesday 6th March.

Informal interviews will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th March.

If successful, training for role will be held on Wednesday 20th March with further training dates TBC.

We look forward to hearing from you.