**About Lead Scotland**

Lead Scotland is a charity supporting disabled people and carers by providing personalised learning, befriending, advice and information services. We have projects across Scotland and a national helpline and information service. Our local services are community and home based, one to one or in small groups so that people have the right support to learn and participate. We support people to build a bridge to reach their ambitions of personal development, learning, volunteering and work. At a national level, we provide information and advice on the full range of post-school learning and training opportunities, as well as influencing and informing policy.

**Lead Scotland Vision**

Our vision is of a fair society where disabled people and carers have an equal opportunity to learn, participate and achieve their potential.

**Lead Scotland Mission**

To influence change and provide personalised learning, befriending, advice and information services.

**Strategic Goals for 2020 to 2023**

* Broaden our range of learning and befriending opportunities
* Enable more disabled people and carers to actively participate within communities
* Extend our local and national coverage
* Strengthen our financial sustainability

**Our values**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Equality | * Integrity | * Openness | * Mutual respect | * Kindness |

**Context** .

Lead Scotland operates in the context of a competitive market place for the delivery of services and support for disabled people and carers. The organisation is recognised as a leader in the delivery of formal, non-formal and informal learning, and is active in developing new services and products to retain this position. As a charity and company limited by guarantee in the current financial climate, Lead Scotland has to be responsive to opportunity, alive to the financial pressures of the external environment and ready to act quickly and decisively to changes as, or before, they occur. Our Learning and Befriending Coordinators support management and development colleagues in facilitating engagement with stakeholders to place Lead Scotland at the centre of person-centred education and befriending support provision in Scotland. This involves working in harmony with funders’ requirements and in line with Lead Scotland’s values and responsibilities.

**About the Befriending Project for Adults and Older People**

Our well established Fife Befriending project has been operating successfully for the last 5 years, delivering successful outcomes for Fife citizens with funded support from Fife Council’s Health and Social Care Partnership. The service provides targeted support for adults and older people who are socially isolated, lonely or disconnected, as result of barriers arising from disability, ill health or other circumstances. The service is delivered by a Befriending Coordinator and is underpinned by an existing pool of trained volunteer befrienders, recruited from the local community. Volunteer befrienders offer one-to -one support to adults (16+) to improve their wellbeing, develop their self-confidence and increase their motivation to be involved in their community. Project participants are supported to try new activities and opportunities which reduce loneliness and social isolation, increase their participation, improving their connections with local services, and ultimately building bridges to positive connections within their communities.

Our core approach for every participant is fully person-centred and participants engage in activities structured around supporting them to pursue their interests, identify their own outcomes and achieve their aims. The objective is to give short-term support of up to 6 months duration, but this may be extended depending on individual need. The project is delivered through a blended approach to service delivery which includes both remote and face to face support as appropriate depending on each person’s needs.

**About the Befriending Coordinator role**

Within the scope of responsibilities for this role and the approach described above, applicants should note the following key dimensions:

The role includes dealing with referrals from a range of partners and initial enquiries from potential befriendees, visiting eligible referrals, undertaking home visits and registering project participants for the service to access activities within their community and build positive befriending relationships. In addition, the role will also involve delivery of training to small groups of volunteer participants, remotely and in person. Our Befriending Coordinator will offer guidance and support to co-design an accessible activity plan, in line with individualised needs. The befriending journey includes progression through Lead services as well as signposting and support to access appropriate external partner services. This involves reviewing progress and networking to generate appropriate next steps. This will all be delivered within the framework of the above project and with an approach that sees the full potential of every individual and organisational participant.

The role is home-based and offers an excellent and exciting opportunity for structuring workload flexibly to fit with demand.