

Housing Project Freelance Opportunity

Are you the kind of person who can help residents with a broad range of housing related problems, support sensitive discussion on problem landlords, encourage collective action on street issues. Are you calm, non-judgmental and able to work effectively with people from different sectors and backgrounds. Can you manage your own time and workload for the benefit of residents? If the answer to all of these is yes, we want to hear from you.



West End Housing Community Worker

One-year part time fixed term freelance contract. Open to negotiation between 7.5 to 15 hours per week and scales up to £13,528 (15 hours). Contracted to Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions, with oversight from a West End Morecambe Big Local supervisor and informal project panel. The role is initially open to self-employed professionals, but we will discuss other options if raised.

Background

The quality and social balance of housing plays an important part in the social fabric of our community in terms of well-being, health and economy of the West End. Like many other places the West End faces problems linked to local housing, including the availability of social housing, the standards of property, relationships with landlords or between neighbours, and the level of resident engagement in local housing decisions. WEM now aims to pilot a project of a Housing Community Worker. Their role will be a light-touch support that helps residents generate some collective action, builds bridges between different partners, and signpost to potential sources of support. The role will not provide individual case support but find ways to empower people to help themselves. The role of the post will include varying degrees of activity, ordered below in rough priority:

- Offer basic help and advice to tenants and homeowners.
- Support individuals and groups to represent and advocate for themselves on issues related to housing and the immediate environment.
- Work with the informal WEM housing panel.
- Make connections with relevant agencies.
- Help and encourage new collective groups and facilitate discussions.
- Provide some background support to new group activity and collective action.
- Signpost people to sources of more comprehensive help and case support.
- Facilitate a small support budget on agreed activity.
- Attempt to link individuals or groups and relevant agencies.
- Where appropriate, speak on local housing / environment issue to relevant bodies.
- Fulfil necessary administration, timesheets, project reports and paperwork.

Expected outcomes at the end of the project will include:

- A record of interactions and what worked and what didn't.
- A record of adopted strategies including your own evaluation of their effectiveness
- Recommendations on approaches for longer-standing work in the West End
- A self-evaluation of the housing community worker role and recommendations if this project were repeated

A successful candidate is likely to:

- Have some knowledge on issues related to housing and housing problems
- Have strong experience of working with individual residents and community groups.
- Have experience of facilitating and developing groups.
- Be able to manage own workload, prioritising tasks and work on own initiative.
- Understand safeguarding when working with different individuals
- Be able to design and facilitate group activity in a number of different settings.
- Be able to represent the project and its partners in a professional manner.
- Preferably have knowledge of the West End, but at the very least Morecambe.
- Be expected to work a flexible work pattern that includes days and evenings depending on needs.
- Be able to complete necessary admin, timesheets, reports and paperwork.

Being able to drive / have access to your own vehicle is useful but not essential for this role.

Equal Opportunities

This initial recruitment is ring-fenced. Within that we welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic, or social origin, colour, religion, belief, or sexual orientation. In addition, during the stages of recruitment, specific measures can be taken to ensure equal opportunities for candidates with disabilities or special needs.

How to apply

Please send a letter of interest accompanied by a concise CV. The letter should reference...

- Your skills, knowledge, and suitability for the role.
- What would you do over the period of the program to meet our desired outcomes.
- How you would plan to engage with partners and residents.
- Highlight an example of related previous work.
- The names / contact of two references.

Please also indicate the preference on hours and scale up to 15 hours, and any period of notice before you could start.

Application closing date: 24 February 2025, 5pm. Shortlisting and interviews would take place shortly after, and the aim would be to start work as soon as possible.

Submissions should be sent electronically to hello@lancastercvs.org.uk or as a hard copy to: West End Morecambe Big Local, Lancaster District CVS, The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street, Lancaster LA1 1PX

If you have any questions about this opportunity or how to apply, please contact Yak Patel by email at yakpatel@lancastercvs.org.uk

7 February, 2025