**Research Associate Circa £35,000**

**Job Advert to go live : Week of 31st July 2023**

**Closing Date : 23rd August 2023**

**Interview : Week of 4th September 2023**

We are seeking a Research Associate to work across projects within the Research Workstream, with a focus on gaps identified, evaluation and learning implementation. The work will focus on identifying gaps within the Youth Justice System and look to research and evaluate pilots we deliver within the program.

Part of this work will require the post holder to continue to work with the project manager to collate and develop further on the research we have gathered.

Preferably you will have extensive professional research experience. We would be particularly interested in applicants with an understanding of research within the field of Young People or community practice. You should also have experience of researching sensitive topics and understand the practical and ethical issues involved in researching with children and young people. Good written skills are essential, as is the ability to communicate and engage with a wide range of audiences from children and families to senior professionals.

 Please note this is a fixed term full-time appointment.

The research and evaluation will involve the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods in order to analyse and collate existing and new data on things such as impact on court proceedings and outcomes, as well as using accessible, trauma-informed and participatory approaches to gathering the views of children, their families and the professionals involved.

While the post is based at Head Office with hybrid working. The post holder will work closely with partners associated with the project. The role will involve travel across Scotland to engage with children, families and professional stakeholders in the different partnership areas.

The role is supported by a project manager and community development assistants to support the participation and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

 1. Undertake research as an individual and collaborative research including all aspects of research: literature reviews, design and development of data collection tools; engaging with a range of participants, including children and young people; undertaking quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis and report formation.

2. Work with a team to lead on the evaluation of project pilots across Scotland

3. Lead on designing research and evaluation proposals, and the use of EQIAs and CRWIA

4. Report through written and verbal means to a range of audiences

5. Participate in and develop external networks to foster research collaborations, to inform the development of research objectives and to identify potential sources of funding

6. Develop knowledge exchange activities on the results of the evaluations within the project making recommendations regarding future roll out of the model

 8. Engage in continuous professional development

What you will bring :

Appropriate professional experience with a research background

Experience of qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis

Evidence of research dissemination and writing for a wide range of audiences

Knowledge and experience of creative or participatory research

The ability to travel within Scotland and work non-standard hours when necessary

Ability to work within a team environment

Experience of undertaking a service evaluation methods

Knowledge and experience of the child protection/youth justice sector

An understanding of value-based competencies

Personal Attributes:

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences. A passion in helping Young People.