

**Engagement Worker
Job Description**

Post Title: Engagement & Support Worker
Salary: £24,000 – £26,000 per annum (dependant on experience)
Contract Type: Permanent
Working Hours: 37.5 hrs per week
Location: Milton Keynes
Responsible to: Team Leader

Overview

At CLI through our dedicated support services, peer-led mentoring, and practical and emotional support, we help people who have experience of the criminal justice system, addiction, homelessness, and mental ill-health, to recognise their potential as individuals, build their self-worth, their self-esteem and achieve their aspirations.

Our support and mentoring help people build a more fulfilling life and see how they can become part of, and positively impact, their community.

We work in partnership with other organisations that are striving to deliver positive impacts, support change, and share our commitment and values.

And we actively welcome those with lived experience of offending, addiction, homelessness, or mental health issues as part of our team. Where others see risk, we see opportunity.

We believe everyone deserves to feel valued, to be happy, to belong.

What you will be doing?

As an Engagement & Support Worker you will provide practical one-to-one weekly support and constructive activities to help those we support. You will work with a maximum caseload of 15 mentees at any one time. Your aim within the role will be to support mentees with building positive change in their lives and achieving their goals.

You will work in partnership with staff, volunteers, and the people we support to guarantee that we maintain a high-quality service which meets the needs of those engaged.

Alongside the practical one-to one weekly support, other typical duties will include referral processing including establishing complexities, outcomes and risk information. Completing assessments and care plans/action plans, monitoring journeys, quality assurance and reporting responsibilities.

The successful candidate will commit to working in line with our workplace values which are:

- People first – people are our top priority. We care so everyone can be their best.
- Community – our actions and support help build stronger communities where people can find their place and thrive.
- Transformation – we do challenging work, creating positive change that helps people move on with their lives.
- Excellence – we strive to always be our best, to exceed expectations, to learn from our mistakes.
- Trust – we trust ourselves, our colleagues and those we work with to do the right thing, to show integrity, acceptance, respect and fairness in all we do.

What we are looking for?

- Experience of working (or significant voluntary experience) within, criminal justice services, drug & alcohol recovery or treatment services, homelessness / housing services or mental health services is highly desirable.
- A passionate belief in the human capacity for change.
- High level of relationship skills: Empathy; caring; acceptance; mutual affirmation; supportive and constructive challenge and positive expectation for the future.
- Ability to quickly build rapport; being persistent, determined, and resilient.
- A creative approach to problem solving; getting and keeping people engaged and demonstrating empathy.
- An understanding of the complex interdependencies of mental health, homelessness, substance abuse and offending behaviour.
- Promote the rights, responsibilities and informed choice of the people receiving the service, acting as an advocate to promote independence.
- Demonstrable coaching skills in promoting independence and pro social attitudes.
- Adaptability to changing and emerging needs, demonstrating flexibility and resilience to challenging situations and the ability to work under pressure and maintain a positive approach.
- Experience of data collection, administration and recording procedures.
- Experience of using Microsoft applications.
- The ability to work effectively with partner agencies and develop contacts and networks across a wide range of local services.
- Full driving licence, own car and business insurance is essential.

What we offer?

- Competitive salary with annual salary reviews
- Training opportunities and career development
- 28 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- Christmas closure between Christmas and New Year for all employees
- Life Insurance (5x annual salary)
- Reflective practice – a group process that helps us to grow and develop professionally and personally, support us to build resilience and offers the space to consider how to balance work and life pressures
- Company phone and laptop provided to all staff
- Annual awards ceremony and celebration
- Refer a Friend Scheme – you could qualify for a £250 reward voucher if you refer someone you know into any paid, externally advertised position (permanent or fixed-term) within CLI

Community Led Initiatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age. All applicants are considered based on their merits and abilities for the job. All posts are subject to enhanced DBS checks however it will not be used to discriminate unfairly against any individual. We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills, and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.

Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy

This policy applies to paid employees of Community Led Initiatives CIC (CLI) and volunteers who volunteer directly with Community Led Initiatives and its associated projects.

- As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, CLI complies fully with the Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a DBS check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- CLI is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff, or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability, or offending background.
- We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is made available to all DBS applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.
- We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills, and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, and experience.
- A DBS check is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a DBS check is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a DBS check will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.
- Where a DBS check is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to a designated person within CLI and we guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
- Unless the nature of the position allows CLI to ask questions about your entire criminal record, we only ask about 'unspent' convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- We ensure that all those in CLI who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment or opportunity to volunteer.
- We make every subject of a DBS check aware of the existence of the Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.
- We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a DBS check with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with CLI. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.