

Community Play Practitioner

Would you relish the opportunity to support families and young children in the Acharacle, Ardgour, Morvern, Sunart and West Ardnamurchan community council areas, and test a new and innovative way of providing much needed childcare and Early Years support across the area, but with a particular focus initially on Acharacle and Sunart. Urram and the Ardnamurchan Childcare Action Group have been working with Care and Learning Alliance, The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to research and consider childcare possibilities.

We are looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic practitioner, who is passionate about the importance of play for young children and families, to test the Work Club concept. You will be able to work flexibly, using your own initiative in planning and delivering the work.

The Work Club will offer support for parents by providing supervised play sessions for 1-3 year olds, whilst their parents are present in a nearby room. The Play practitioner will work alongside a colleague, providing support in a ratio of 1 adult to 3 children, with a maximum of 6 children. Parents will be on hand to feed and change their child as required. There will be a 2 hour play session, followed by a half an hour break, where the children return to their parents before the second 2 hour play session commences. The play sessions will be designed and run by the Community Play Practitioner, and resources can be provided as requested, within a modest budget.

Urram's team structure

Development Manager - responsible for development of Urram, (including Dail Mhor), fundraising for Urram's work and support of activities. Line manager for most team members. Oversees befriending service, childcare and social and activity groups.

Transport Manager- responsible for overseeing Urram's Transport Service and manages the Car Club. Plays a role in the delivery of the befriending service.

Transport Coordinator- responsible for the delivery of Urram's Transport Service.

SiRD Project Officer- responsible for the delivery of Urram's Support in the Right Direction project- providing independent support and advice to those with social care needs and budgets.

Social Events Coordinator- works closely with Development Manager to deliver community lunches, befriending and social and activity groups.

Main tasks

Develop, launch and operate a Work Club

Working with the Development Manager and Project Officer- Childcare, to test the Work Club model

The role is to provide engaging, safe and age appropriate play sessions for children aged 6 months to 5 years within a community setting while their parents work in the nearby room. Experience providing play opportunities as well as supporting parents is essential as is the ability to risk assess and manage different age ranges appropriately and safely.

The Community Play Practitioner will:

- Work effectively as a part of a team providing safe, high quality play and learning opportunities for children within a community setting.

- Develop strong effective relationships with parents communicating clearly with them as they are supported to work nearby having confidence in their child's experiences.
- Plan, organise and support the delivery of high-quality play sessions within the community space providing a variety of age appropriate engaging play opportunities.
- Deliver the play sessions – including sourcing resources and ensuring safe and efficient storage, set up and clear away.
- Maintain clear records of attendance and any relevant information.
- Communicate timeously and as agreed with Line Manager.
- Perform any other duty reasonably falling within the scope of the post as determined by the Line Manager.

Professional Knowledge and Understanding. The Community Play Practitioner will;

- Have a secure understanding of how children learn and develop and how to support each child's individual needs, interests and character.
- Have a secure knowledge of how to keep children safe and the boundaries of their role and the parents responsibility.
- Have a secure understanding of Play Principles and values.
- Understand how to accurately record and monitor the sessions as required by the manager and funder. This information will be used to evaluate the success of the project.

Person Specification- general

<i>The successful applicant should be able to demonstrate:</i>	Essential	Desirable
Skills		
Be self-motivated and able to use own initiative	✓	
To work effectively as a team member to provide and facilitate a high standard of support in the community.	✓	
Excellent Communication skills (oral, written and ICT as appropriate)	✓	
Efficient organisational, time management and prioritisation skills.	✓	
Commitment to enhancing the lives of those we work with in a fair and equality focussed manner	✓	
Solutions focussed	✓	
Ability to work on your own with 'light touch' supervision.	✓	
Ability to work within a disperse remote team	✓	
Ensure a highly professional and positive attitude is always presented	✓	
Value and promote fairness, diversity, social inclusion and anti-discriminatory practice	✓	

Experience		
A good knowledge of the west Lochaber area, ideally including Acharacle, Ardgour, Morvern, Sunart and West Ardnamurchan		✓

A secure understanding of childhood learning and development and how to support individual needs, interest and character.	✓	
A secure knowledge of how to keep children safe and the boundaries of their role and the parents responsibility.	✓	
A secure understanding of Play Principles and values	✓	
A desire to make our communities stronger	✓	
Previous experience of developing community-based services		✓
Understanding of, or experience in social/community enterprise and /or income generation in a third sector environment.		✓
Ability to treat all people with respect and courtesy, maintaining dignity and respecting individual needs and differences.	✓	
Understand the importance and have the ability to maintain confidentiality.	✓	

Employer/Commissioner:

Initially this will be a self-employed agreement for the duration of the trial. Depending on the success of the trial and funding available, there is scope for it to become a more permanent position.

Reporting to:

Urram (Gaelic - 'respect') Urram has a volunteer Board of Trustees, is a registered SCIO, office address is Dail Mhor, Strontian, PH36 4HZ.

This role will report to the Development Manager.

Salary:

£15 per hour.

Hours of Work:

Most hours will be worked over ½ days based in Acharacle and Strontian.

Holiday Pay:

Not Applicable- Self employment

Sick Pay:

Not Applicable- Self employment

Fixed Term Contract:

The Work Club will run from late January or Early February for three months as a test. It will be reviewed towards the end of this.

Payments:

On provision of invoice.

Place of Work:

Acharacle Community Centre and The Sunart Centre.