**Pathfinder Participation Worker**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Part-time:** 15 hours per week - core days are Tuesdays and Fridays, with flexible working on other weekdays.

**Temporary contract:** Initially one year, with potential to extend to two years on confirmation of funding continuation.

**Salary: £11.99 to £14.51 per hour (dependant on experience)**

**Location:** Mainly in the Lutterworth and Countesthorpe areas, with flexibility to travel to other locations across the Harborough and Blaby districts. Own transport is a must.

**Reporting to:** Project Manager/Pathfinder Project Lead

**Closing date for applications:** Friday 29th February 2024

**Who are we?**

Lutterworth & Villages Foodbank (www.lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk) opened in January 2014 and is part of the Trussell Trust’s UK network of over 1000 foodbanks, providing practical community-led support for people facing hardship. In 2022 our foodbank joined the Pathfinder Programme - a dedicated team of around 50 Trussell Trust foodbanks across the country working towards a future where fewer people will need emergency food.

**What is the job?**

Working alongside the Pathfinder Project Lead, you will bring together a small group of people who have direct experience of severe financial hardship or foodbank use and encourage them to contribute to learning, planning and decision-making within the foodbank. You will create questionnaires, organise events and activities for the group, and create safe spaces where you will enable them to have a say in how the foodbank operates.

**Why do we need you?**

We need your help to create long-term change. The foodbank is committed to involving people with lived experience of poverty in working to end the need for foodbanks and creating a future where every household has enough money for the essentials. Your role is vital to the process.

**Responsibilities:**

* Relationship Building – Building and nurturing trusting relationships with foodbank users and local people in the community who are facing financial hardship.
* Project Planning – Working with the Pathfinder Project Lead to develop relationship-based participation events and projects; ensuring the outcomes are integrated into wider foodbank plans and activities.
* Working with Lived Experience Partners – Collaborating with people who have experienced or are experiencing poverty and financial hardship, ensuring that they are invited, briefed and thanked personally for their involvements in relevant activities.

**About you**

**To apply for this post, you must:**

* Be able to show empathy and show that you value everyone’s contribution; active listening is a key part of this role.
* Be a strong communicator and confident in building relationships with people either face to face, on the phone, via Zoom, by email or WhatsApp.
* Be able to work sensitively with people from a range of backgrounds (including those facing challenging circumstances).
* Have strong IT skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, Zoom etc) and have the ability to learn and utilise other systems including our online database.
* Be able to input and retrieve data accurately and effectively and to produce reports to feedback to the team.
* Be organised and self-motivated.
* Be capable of organising events such as small focus groups in their entirety.
* Demonstrate a flexible approach to meet changing demands.
* Be open to learning and developing your own skills, including linking in with other Foodbanks *(any travel costs will be reimbursed)*
* Have an interest in food poverty or charitable work.
* Maybe you have worked with vulnerable people or volunteered for a charity previously, or you just want to make a difference?

*In addition to the above, there may be other tasks involved to support the project and its clients, as requested by the Project Manager.*

For more information and an informal chat please contact Lucy Freeman, the Project Manager, on 07821 802793 or email manager@lutterworthvillages.foodbank.org.uk