**Community Engagement Lead**

**VACANCY REFERENCE CODE: 28/2019**

*Please quote this code on the application form*

‘You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive.’
 [James Baldwin](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/10427.James_Baldwin)

**Based at:** Homebased

**Reports to:** North West & National People and Projects Manager

**Location:** Bristol

**Salary Band**: £17,000 - £22,000 per annum (pro rota)

**Hours**: 0.7FTE/24.5 hours per week

**Duration:** Fixed Term, contract ends 31st March 2020

**About this role**

This role will require you to recruit and support volunteers and build partnerships to support the Volunteer project. You will also develop and deliver a publicity plan to raise awareness of the project and build up contacts locally to set up referral routes into groups where appropriate.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Recruit and support volunteers to run Shared Reading groups and undertake Volunteer Organiser, Community Advocate and Community Champion duties.
* Recruit community members to reading groups
* Develop good working relationships with project partners and local services, including building referral relationships
* Take responsibility for representing The Reader in public, maintaining relationships with partner agencies and ensure that positive impacts are recorded
* Keep up to date records and contribute to project reports
* Ensure monitoring and evaluation processes are undertaken on the project
* In conjunction with our Communications team, develop publicity materials, such as leaflets and posters to promote the groups and volunteering opportunities – including developing and delivering a publicity plan to raise awareness of the project
* Keep up to date records of delivery of shared reading, and volunteer records in line with organisational best practice, and project needs
* Work with Evaluation Manager to ensure effective review of learning opportunities and cascade learning to internal Volunteer Project Learning Teams
* Work with the Head of Reading Excellence to ensure volunteers deliver a quality service
* To provide cover for groups as and when required
* Manage the administrative processes underpinning the project and related training
* Be an effective team member, participating in personal and professional development
* Attend weekly catch up sessions with Project Manager and report back useful information in a timely manner.
* Attend and contribute to staff meetings, feeding back useful information.
* Other duties as designated by line manager.

**Person Specification**

**Essential Criteria**

* A degree in English, or ability to demonstrate wide range of personal reading, including poetry and the ability to talk about it in an engaging manner
* Excellent at reading aloud
* Excellent IT skills
* Ability to co-ordinate a number of different activities and work to a specific plan
* Experience of managing staff or volunteers
* A good communicator with great speaking, listening and writing skills
* Able to make and maintain appropriate relationships with external organisations
* Commitment to engage and work with a diverse and varied range of participants
* Able to support, coach and progress volunteers in a sensitive and constructive manner.
* Able to deal with potentially distressing situations and challenging behaviours in a careful and calm manner demonstrating excellent emotional resilience
* Self-motivated and able to work unsupervised in a peripatetic style.

**Desirable Criteria**

* Community engagement experience
* Understanding and experience of The Reader’s shared reading model
* An understanding of the problems of engaging people who think books are not for them
* Driving license and use of a car

You must be willing to undergo a fully enhanced DBS check.

Training and supervision in Shared Reading and Safeguarding practice will be provided.

**How to Apply**

Note. Please do not just send in a CV. We will only consider applications that adhere to the following process -

Visit [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk/) and select the ‘Get Involved Section’ where you will be able to view the full job description, recruitment pack and download an application form/task. Please complete the application form and submit to kateharrison@thereader.org.uk

**Deadline for applications: 9am, Monday 15th April 2019.**

NB: applications arriving after **9am** will not be considered

**Selection Process:** If successful at shortlisting you will be invited to attend a panel interview.

A high volume of applications may make replies to everyone impossible. If you have not heard from us by 24th April 2019, then unfortunately your application has been unsuccessful.

Role to start as soon as possible