**About the Befriending Project for Adults and Older People**

Our well-established Fife Befriending project has been operating successfully since 2015, delivering successful outcomes for Fife citizens with funded support from Fife Council’s Health and Social Care Partnership. The service provides targeted support for adults and older people who are socially isolated, lonely or disconnected, as result of barriers arising from disability, ill health or other circumstances.

The service is delivered by a Befriending Coordinator and is underpinned by an existing pool of trained volunteer befrienders, recruited from the local community. Volunteer befrienders offer one-to -one support to adults (16+) to improve their wellbeing, develop their self-confidence and increase their motivation to be involved in their community. Project participants are supported to try new activities and opportunities which reduce loneliness and social isolation, increase their participation, improving their connections with local services, and ultimately building bridges to positive connections within their communities.

Our core approach for every participant is fully person-centred and participants engage in activities structured around supporting them to pursue their interests, identify their own outcomes and achieve their aims. The objective is to give short-term support of up to 6 months duration, but this may be extended depending on individual need. The project is delivered through a blended approach to service delivery which includes both remote and face to face support as appropriate depending on each person’s needs.

**About the Befriending Coordinator role**

Within the scope of responsibilities for this role and the approach described above, applicants should note the following key dimensions:

The role includes dealing with referrals from a range of partners and initial enquiries from potential befriendees, visiting eligible referrals, undertaking home visits and registering project participants for the service to access activities within their community and build positive befriending relationships. In addition, the role will also involve delivery of training to small groups of volunteer participants, remotely and in person. Our Befriending Coordinator will offer guidance and support to co-design an accessible activity plan, in line with individualised needs. The befriending journey includes progression through Lead services as well as signposting and support to access appropriate external partner services. This involves reviewing progress and networking to generate appropriate next steps. This will all be delivered within the framework of the above project and with an approach that sees the full potential of every individual and organisational participant.

The role is home-based and offers an excellent and exciting opportunity for structuring workload flexibly to fit with demand. Support is provided by the Befriending Services Manager. Regular remote meetings of the full, national team further enhance the opportunities for organisational networking and continuing professional development.

## About Lead Scotland

Lead Scotland is a charity supporting disabled people and carers by providing personalised learning, befriending, advice and information services. We have projects across Scotland and a national helpline and information service. Our local services are community and home based, one to one or in small groups so that people have the right support to learn and participate. We support people to build a bridge to reach their ambitions of personal development, learning, volunteering, and work. At a national level, we provide information and advice on the full range of post-school learning and training opportunities, as well as influencing and informing policy.

* **Our Vision** is of a fair society where disabled people and carers have an equal opportunity to learn, participate and achieve their potential.
* **Our Mission** is to influence change and provide personalised learning, befriending, advice, and information services.

**Strategic Goals for 2023 to 2026**

* Offer more local and remote learning opportunities, which improve access, offer accreditation, build confidence and skills, reducing educational exclusion.
* Extend our Befriending Services to reduce social isolation and create new pathways to learning.
* Extend our disabled student’s helpline and information services so that more students understand their rights, entitlements and make informed choices about their options.
* More disabled people have the opportunity to influence policy makers, breaking down systemic barriers to improve access for future learners.

**Our Values**: Integrity, Openness, Mutual Respect, Kindness, Equality

# Working for Lead Scotland

Alongside the salary, pension, and annual leave summarised in the job description, Lead Scotland also offers employees the option of flexible working around agreed core hours. Flexible working arrangements can be revised as required, for example when caring responsibilities change.

We love learning and we encourage our team members to develop and learn through accredited learning and peer-supported informal learning, as well as undertaking CPD with partner organisations as opportunities arise. Being home-based offers staff an excellent opportunity to work with a degree of autonomy and responsibility, within the framework of regular support and supervision meetings with their line manager. Our staff team has a voice in setting business direction, establishing programmes to ensure contract delivery, and we have weekly team meetings online to bring people together for structured sessions as well as more free-ranging discussions to support our culture of mutual respect, kindness, and support.

Closing Date: Noon Thursday 12th September 2024 Shortlisted applicants can expect an online panel interview with questions based on the criteria for the post on Thursday 19th September 2024.