**Peer Education Participation Worker**

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| jfklogo | | **Role Description** |
| **Role** | Peer Education Participation Worker (18-month role FTC) | |
| **Reporting to:** | Youth Engagement and Participation Manager (Youth Projects Team) | |
| **Organisation purpose:** | Just for Kids Law (JfKL) exists to work with and for children and young people to hold those with power to account and fight for wider reform.  We do this by providing legal representation and advice, direct advocacy, and support, and through strategic litigation, campaigning, and equipping others to work for children’s rights. | |
| **Context:** | JfKL’s Programmes and Participation Directorate brings together Youth Advocacy, Youth Opportunities (support towards education, training and employment), internal Participation opportunities, and youth campaigning.  The team works with C&YP aged 10 to 25 in London who face a range of issues, including those who have experienced school exclusion, homelessness, immigration issues, involvement in the care system and in the criminal justice system. The C&YP we work with are also resourceful, and many are passionate about using their lived experience to improve practice and the systems that have let them down.  The Youth Projects team takes a youth work approach and is comprised of the Youth Engagement and Participation Manager, a Youth Opportunities Worker, a Youth Engagement and Campaigns Organiser and a new Peer Education Participation Officer. The team works primarily with C&YP who have accessed internal legal and / or advocacy services, providing a range of development opportunities. | |
| **Role purpose** | Peers play an important role in young people’s lives. Young people are most likely to seek support and advice from their friends. Their behaviour and knowledge is often heavily influenced by their peer group.  The Peer Education Participation Officer will develop and deliver a new Peer Education initiative focused on the housing rights of Care Leavers. This aims to reach, inform and mobilise a wider cohort of care experienced young people, and the smaller organisations that support them, to understand and respond to homelessness and housing issues experienced by care experienced young people and care leavers.  It will involve, engaging care experienced young people with experience of homelessness and housing issues in the initiative, building their understanding of the housing rights of care leavers and of peer education approaches, and supporting them to co-facilitate workshops for staff and volunteers in external grassroots organisations to build their knowledge of the housing rights and entitlements of care leavers (with other JfKL staff), and to undertake communications activities to raise awareness of these issues.  This role will work closely with our Youth Engagement and Campaigns Organiser, enabling young people involved as campaigners to engage in peer education activity, to help recruit young people to our care and Housing youth campaign, and to align policy-influencing and practice-/peer-influencing activities on this issue.  This role will also have a responsibility to consider small grants to smaller charities supporting care experienced young people on housing issues.  This is an opportunity to harness and lead on the youth work methodology of peer education within the Youth Projects Team and at JfKL, and you will play an integral part of enhancing this practice throughout deliver of this project.  This is an 18-month role. The aim is that it will be replaced by a YP involved in the Peer Education project for a 12-18 month paid role. | |
| **Key accountabilities** | **Key activities/ tasks** | |
| **Working with young people** | Upholding a positive, empowering approach to work with young people, including:   * Create the 18month programme with support from the Youth Engagement and Participation Manager, and including young people in the creation, delivery and review of the programme and training / workshop facilitation * Working respectfully and non-judgementally to engage young people * Being led by young people and working at their pace * Supporting young people to co-produce the peer education project and it’s activities, increasing their influence over the initiative over time * Maintaining appropriate, boundaried relationships with young people * Acting on safeguarding and risk information in line with JfKL policies and procedures * Being young person-centred and strengths-based in their approach * Upskilling and training all peer educators with the prospect to apply for this paid role in 18 months   Lead and deliver a new Peer Education Initiative by:   * Recruiting care experienced young people with experience of homelessness and housing to join the project * Exploring the impact of Peer Educators shared lived experience and supporting them to confidently speak out on this issue from a rights-based perspective * Building young people’s understanding of the housing rights of care leavers and their knowledge of peer education approaches * Supporting young people to deliver peer education sessions on the housing rights and entitlements of care leavers to other C&YP * Support young people to co-deliver workshops with JfKL staff (Advocacy & Legal) to staff and volunteers in grassroots organisations on the housing rights and entitlements of care leavers * Support young people to undertake communications activities to raise awareness of the housing rights of care leavers (e.g. gathering and sharing case studies highlighting the issues, web information, social media activity) * Enable young people involved in the peer education initiative to contribute to JfKL’s Care and Housing Thematic Group * Enable a Peer Educator to take on this paid role after 18 months and support their induction before this fixed term contract ends | |
| **Reporting and evaluation** | Maintaining accurate case records, and monitoring and evaluating the peer education initiative, including by:   * Develop monitoring tools for project, with input from young people * Regularly revieing young people’s involvement in the project and capturing their experience and its impact * Providing regular updates and case studies to line manager for Board reports * Contributing to funder reports for the project * Representing JfKL at external events and to funders | |
| **Partnership and team working** | Building **relationships with external organisations** to:   * Recruit young people to the initiative * Build understanding of how smaller grassroots organisations could support children in care/ on the edge of care / young care leavers to understand and access their housing entitlements * Build a network of smaller grass roots organisations working with children in care/ on the edge of care / young care leavers – interested in building knowledge of their staff and the young people they support on housing rights of care leavers * Promote and enable community organisations involved the peer education initiative to apply for a small-scale ‘flow-through’ grant * Promote our existing Care and Housing youth campaign.   Maintaining effective cross-team working with **internal JfKL colleagues:**   * Work with our Youth Engagement and Campaigns Organiser, so that the campaign’s policy-influencing activity and the peer education initiative’s practice-/peer-influencing activity is aligned * Recruit young people to the peer education initiative, and enable pathways between the youth campaign and peer education initiative * Contributing to our internal Care and Housing Thematic Group * Working with JfKL’s Policy and Campaigns, Advocacy and Legal teams to remain up to date with relevant legislation, policies, entitlements, and JfKL practice trends relevant to the project * Attending and participating in team meetings, other JfKL events, and training * Identifying and co-producing case studies with peer educators that support our policy and campaigning activity and the youth Care and Housing campaign * Advertising and awareness raising about our peer education approach and giving regular updates on your work internally | |
| **General responsibilities** | * Attending and participating in internal meetings as required * Being a positive, cooperative, and constructive team member, upholding the values of JfKL * Complying with JFKL’s monitoring and recording requirements * Representing and promoting the organisation’s work positively * Carrying out all work with due regard to JFKL’s policies and procedures, including safeguarding and staff safety * Promoting Equality and Diversity principles in all aspects of work | |
| **Other duties** | Carrying out any other duties which fall reasonably within this role. | |
| **Updating this role description**  This is a description of the job as it is presently constituted. It is the practice of Just for Kids Law to periodically review role descriptions and to update them. This process will be conducted in consultation with you. It is the aim of the organisation to reach agreement on any changes but if agreement cannot be reached, the organisation reserves the right to insist on such changes to your job description, after consultation with you. | | |

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| jfklogo | **Person Specification** | | |
|  | | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Knowledge**   * Understanding of the principles and practice of effective youth participation   Knowledge of the issues affecting children and young people JfKL works with  Knowledge of the housing rights of young care leavers  Knowledge of peer education approaches – this needs to be essential as it is their role?  Knowledge of services available for young people. | | **x**    **x**    **x** | **x**  **x** |
| **Experience**   * Experience of working directly with children and young people, both one-to-one and in group settings * Experience of engaging children and young people from a range of backgrounds * Experience of delivering participation and/ or peer education activities with children or young people * Experience of youth work, social work, or other relevant work * Experience of managing budgets and completing grant applications | | **x**  **x**  **x**  **x** | **x** |
| **Qualifications, work experience, and training**   * Training relevant to the post i.e. training/courses in youth work or other related area. | | **x** |  |
| **Skills and abilities**   * Teamwork, listening, creating and sharing of ideas across a team * Skills in youth participation and involvement, and ability to build rapport and trust with children and young people * Skills in providing information, advice, and assistance * Ability to adapt communication skills to all levels of learning and age groups * Ability to deliver creative approaches to direct work with C&YP * Ability to plan, record and organise a project and tasks, taking initiative * Ability to create effective working relationships with young people * Ability to build relationships with external professionals and organisations to identify shared aims * Excellent verbal and written communication skills * Ability to understand budgets and financial information * Ability to understand relevant legislation and policy * Skilled in group work and facilitation | | **x**  **x**  **x**  **x**  **x**  **x**  **x**  **x**  **x** | **x**  **x**  **x** |
| **Qualities**   * Respectful of young people and able to champion their lived experience and strengths * Energetic, self-motivated, and organised individual who is prepared to throw themselves into the work of JfKL, work collaboratively and uphold our mission, vision, and values * Flexible thinker who can respond in a positive and composed manner to unexpected changes in a young person’s case at short notice * Resilient, emotionally intelligent individual who understands the demands of frontline work with complex young people and upholds clear professional boundaries | | **x**  **x**  **x**  **x** |  |
| **Other requirements**   * Able to meet clients and travel around London * Prepared to work out of hours occasionally * Willing to attend training in support of role | | **x**  **x**  **x** |  |

November 2022