Role Profile

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Youth and Community Engagement Worker (Thurrock Youth Zone)

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**JOB Role:**

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| **JOB TITLE:** | Youth and Community Engagement Worker (Thurrock Youth Zone) | **SALARY:** | £28,620 (pro rata) |
| **REPORTING TO:** | Chief Executive Officer (subject to change as the project develops) | **HOLIDAYS:** | 33 days including bank holidays (pro rata) and an additional day off on your birthday. |
| **LOCATION:** | Future Youth Zone, 201-225 Porters Avenue, Dagenham, RM9 5YX.  The role will be contractually based at Future Youth Zone but most of your work will happen in the Thurrock community including sessional work with young people, meetings with community partners as well as time spent in other Youth Zones in the OnSide network to gain an understanding of our work. | **HOURS:** | Fixed Term Contract to 30.10.26 (other opportunities may be available): part-time, 24 hours per week (other hours may be considered). |
| **THE PERSON:** | We are looking for a passionate and committed Youth Worker, to ensure young people are central to the development and growth of Thurrock Youth Zone. | | |
| **KEY RELATIONSHIPS:** | Future Youth Zone team, Community Partners and stakeholders, OnSide, Young People and parents/carers | | |

As an experienced Youth Worker, your primary responsibility will be the establishment and running of Young People’s Development Group (YPDG) in Thurrock. The YPDG is made up of local young people and play a lead role in shaping the development of the Youth Zone; from working with a design agency to create the name and brand of a new Youth Zone, to supporting the recruitment of staff.

This role is key to ensure young people play their part in shaping and developing provision for young people, and to build positive relationships in the community.

You will also support community engagement in the lead up to the opening of the new Youth Zone, creating space for dialogue, and developing open, positive relationships with local community organisations.

**CONTEXT OF THE POST:**

Barking and Dagenham Youth Zone, named as Future by young people, was opened in May 2019. The Youth Zone is an independent Charity, but we are proud to be part of the growing OnSide Network and we will be supporting the development of Thurrock Youth Zone which is set to open in late 2026 on Anchor Fields, Tilbury.

Thurrock Youth Zone will provide a universal offer focussed around a state-of-the-art, multimillion pound facility that is purpose built and dedicated to young people. We will work with young people aged from 8-19 (up to 25 with additional needs) and offer an array of activities for young people to get involved in. The Youth Zone’s services will be affordable for young people who will be able to access the provision for just a £5 annual membership and 50p entry fee. Whilst our building and activities will provide a hook for young people to initially engage with us, the relationships they develop with our team of Youth Workers will ensure that they return night after night. Youth Zones are open when young people need us the most, during evenings and weekends, whenever schools are closed.

While the construction of Thurrock Youth Zone gets underway, critical work takes place to build relationships with the local community, voluntary sector and young people. These early relationships form the foundation for Youth Zones and it is vital we get it right from the beginning.

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**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – DETAILED**

* To establish and coordinate the Young People’s Development Group for the new Youth Zone project in Thurrock; the key voice of young people throughout these projects.
* To support members of the Young People’s Development Group with youth work programmes including residentials, ensuring the development and growth of young people.
* To coordinate and deliver wider scale youth consultation projects, such as during the pre-opening or feasibility stages of the new Youth Zone project.
* To recruit and train small groups of volunteers for the Young People’s Development Group to support its running.
* To work independently to develop positive relationships with local community organisations where the Youth Zone is being developed, to ensure the Youth Zone is understood by and integrated into the community.
* To support the Youth People’s Development Group involvement in intra Youth Zone events, residentials and other opportunities, allowing young people from across the network to share experiences and develop.
* To share youth work and community engagement good practice across the Youth Zone Network.
* To be alert to issues of safeguarding and child protection, ensuring the welfare and safety of young people is promoted and safeguarded, reporting any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Leads and ensuring all events and activities for young people are well planned, safe and in line with safeguarding policies and procedures.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES - GENERAL**

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* Be a role model for young people and present a positive “can do” attitude.
* Take personal responsibility for own actions.
* Commit to a culture of continuous improvement.
* Work within the performance framework of Future Youth Zone and OnSide.
* Represent Future Youth Zone positively and effectively in all dealings with internal colleagues, and external partners.
* To be alert to issues of safeguarding and child protection, ensuring the welfare and safety of Youth Zone members is promoted and safeguarded, and to report any child protection concerns to the designated Child Protection Officers using the safeguarding policies, procedures, and practice (training to be provided).
* To assist with any promotional activities and visits that take place at the Youth Zone.
* To always adhere to Future Youth Zone policies, with particular reference to Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities.

**PERSON SPECIFCATION**

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| **Selection Criteria\***  A = Application Form I = Interview T = Test/Personality Profile | **Essential or Desirable** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Experience** | | |
| Significant youth work experience in a variety of settings | Essential | A & I |
| Experience of working with young people on developmental programmes & to ensure they have a voice | Essential | A & I |
| Experience of developing training programmes for young people | Essential | A & I |
| Experience in recognising, reporting and supporting safeguarding concerns involving young people | Essential | A & I |
| Experience of working with other partners, particularly in the youth sector | Essential | A & I |
| **Qualifications** | | |
| Level 3 Youth and/or Community Work qualification or equivalent | Essential | A |
| **Skills** | | |
| A good understanding of youth work & group development process | Essential | A & I |
| An effective communicator, both spoken & written, with confidence in speaking to a wide range of groups | Essential | A & I |
| Proactive & motivated self-starter, able to work effectively & autonomously | Essential | A & I |
| A relationship builder & networker, who can work in a collaborative way with other community organisations & networks | Essential | A & I |
| Commitment to fairness, equality & respect | Essential | A & I |
| **Knowledge** |  |  |
| Knowledge and awareness of issues affecting young people | Essential | A & I |
| **Special Requirements** |  |  |
| The willingness to be part of a wider team and understand the core Youth Zone delivery model. | Essential | A & I |
| Enhanced DBS clearance and commitment to Safeguarding children | Essential | A & I |
| Willingness to travel across the Thurrock area and other locations across the country, as required for the role, through having access to a car or using public transport | Essential | A & I |
| A willingness to work flexibly including evenings, some weekends & residentials | Essential | A & I |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The postholder will be employed by Future Youth Zone but working specifically on the Thurrock Youth Zone project for the duration of the fixed term contract (to 30th October 2026); there may be other job opportunities with Thurrock Youth Zone when it opens, or other Youth Zones in the network.

The role will be contractually based at Future Youth Zone but most of your work will happen in the Thurrock community including sessional work with young people, meetings with community partners as well as time spent in other Youth Zones in the OnSide network to build relationships and understanding of our work.

Due to the nature of the role, the 24 hours/week (other hours may be considered) will need to be worked flexibly across the week, mostly evenings and some weekends, with some daytime work when required.

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Description automatically generated**THE OTHER BITS…**

Future Youth Zone is committed to the safeguarding of young people. In accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures, this position requires an enhanced DBS check*.*

The strength of OnSide Youth Zones comes from the diversity of the people within our vibrant network. We are proud that our Youth Zone team reflect the community that we serve, and we value people working together from a range of different backgrounds locally and nationally, and with different experiences, all with a shared passion for boosting the aspirations of young people across the country. Diversity brings innovation, fresh ideas and creativity, and we actively strive to create a culture that is truly inclusive and fair for all and where everyone in the team can be themselves and thrive.

For information regarding how Future Youth Zone and OnSide Youth Zones process your data, please visit [www.futureyouthzone.org/privacy-policy/](http://www.futureyouthzone.org/privacy-policy/)

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

**Closing date:**9am on Friday 14th March 2025

**Assessment Day:**          Wednesday 19th March 2025 at Future Youth Zone

To apply please send a fully up to date CV and a Cover Letter to [recruitment@futureyouthzone.org](mailto:recruitment@futureyouthzone.org)

In your cover letter, please provide the following information:

* The reasons you are suited to the role based on the criteria given in the person specification included within the role profile.
* Confirmation you are eligible to work in the UK;
* Details of your current or most recent remuneration package and your notice period;
* Any reasonable adjustments we can make to assist you in your application or the selection process;

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