

About Linking Lives UK



Our Aims

Our primary aim is to inspire, equip and resource churches and Christian organisations to develop effective responses to loneliness and social isolation in local communities which impact the lives of older people. This is achieved by enabling churches to set up local befriending projects in which volunteers regularly visit or telephone older people on a regular basis. This contact has a significant impact on addressing loneliness and social isolation and there is evidence that such activity can improve physical, mental and spiritual health as well as self-confidence. We are also very much aware that older people have much to offer to the rest of society, and we encourage our projects to value and celebrate the contributions and experiences of older people.



We believe that the church has a key role to play in addressing these key issues of our time, and that many are recognising the need to respond in their local communities. This was highlighted recently in a report produced by AllChurches Trust which found that **78% of churches consider loneliness and social isolation will be the biggest issues in their communities during the next three months, and 58% expect a similar situation in the next twelve months**¹. We are excited at the prospect of continuing to support churches in this way, and this role will be a key one in enabling us to meet our objectives at this important time.

Who we are and what we do

Linking Lives UK has emerged from the initial work of a church-based community project in Berkshire which began in 1998. The approach that we take involves regular visits and phone calls being made by volunteers and typically last for between one and two hours. Those receiving visits are also encouraged to attend local social events and activities where possible or visit places of interest with their volunteer. We began working on a national level in 2012, so that this model could be replicated in other areas, and in 2016 Linking Lives UK became registered as separate charity to focus on this national work. There are currently 32 visiting projects operating ranging from Aberdeen to Guernsey, each of which provides crucial support to those most in need of company. Our main role is to provide the necessary training, advice, documentation and ongoing support to partner churches as well as sharing good practice.

Following the commencement of lockdown in March 2020, all previous home visits were converted to regular telephone calls, and volunteers have been providing much needed support during the Covid-19 pandemic in this way. We have also set up an exciting and brand-new model called Two's Company which has been made available to 18 churches and Christian organisations wishing to support socially isolated people during lockdown. This model is a telephone befriending project which can be set up quickly, easily and safely in local communities and we expect this to continue to be a key aspect of our work in the future.

¹ 'Hope Beyond', AllChurches Trust, July 2020

Trust and Grants Fundraiser Role Description



Based: Home-based

Status: Self-Employed

Hours: 24 hours per week

Rate: £36,000-£40,000 FTE (£21,600-£24,000 actual)

Contract: One year initially (Subject to 6-month review)

Overall objectives:

To secure significant income through charitable trusts and grants to support the work of Linking Lives UK.

Research and identify appropriate funders whose criteria match our developmental needs, preparing cases for support and submitting compelling written bids and complex grant applications as appropriate.

Maintain and develop relationships providing updates and arranging visits as required.

Summary and Main Purpose of Role

To:

- Secure donations to cover the annual target through existing and new trust funders.
- Build on relationships with existing trusts and grant makers by telephone, written, or face to face contact.
- Compile and submit compelling applications for funding, working with colleagues where necessary to ensure accuracy.
- Research and manage the identification and approaches to, cold trusts and grant giving organisations that have not previously supported the work of Linking Lives UK, building on a calendar of key prospects.
- Work across the organisation and build effective relationships to identify suitable projects for trust funding in line with strategy and budgets.
- Develop core generic proposals for each area of Linking Lives UK activities that require funding
- Write tailored applications, addressing grant making priorities or requirements as specified by individual trusts and grant giving organisations
- Implement robust procedures to ensure that we meet the funders formal reporting requirements and to ensure terms and conditions of grants are fully met and that grant payments and income are monitored and reported, including ensuring restricted funds are controlled.
- Monitor and review income from trusts and grant giving organisations, taking action where appropriate
- Maintain accurate records and information on the database
- Work collaboratively with other team members to achieve the maximum benefit for Linking Lives UK.
- Facilitate occasional fundraising advice workshops for our partner projects

Management and Professional Accountability

To:

- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively and reliably within a multi-professional team of staff and volunteers.
- Demonstrate the ability to manage own workload whilst prioritising and communicating effectively.
- Recognise and work within budgetary constraints.
- Ensure the economic use of resources and show clear understanding of return on investment and use of resource/time to be productive.
- Report any issues/problems/challenges to your accountable Linking Lives lead
- Be aware of and comply with all Linking Lives UK policies and procedures as appropriate.
- Provide accurate verbal and written reports as required.
- Ensure safe working practices are maintained

Training and Personal Development

To:

- Participate in Linking Lives bi-annual contractor review system
- Attend training as requested.

Other features of the role/ special requirements

- You will need to be able to work on your own initiative as well as operating effectively as part of a wider team.
- To abide by the general confidentiality policy
- Uphold the Christian ethos of Linking Lives UK in all aspects of the role and personal conduct

The role will be a self-employed position and will involve working from home. We are specifically looking for someone with the relevant experience who shares our vision to reach and support isolated older people.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact:

Jeremy Sharpe - 07970 100131