



Organisation: Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland

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Email: info@afascotland.com
Web: www.afascotland.com

Post: Researcher
Hours: 7 hours (1 day) per week
Salary: £37,658 p.a. (pro rata)
Contract: Fixed term post for 30 weeks

Reporting to: Maggie Grant (Research Associate)
Angie Gillies (Executive Director)

Closing date 5.00pm, Friday 27 May 2022

Interview date Friday 10 June 2022

Location Online Platform – MS Teams

BACKGROUND

The Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland is an independent charity that promotes and facilitates evidence-informed best practice in Kinship Care, Fostering and Adoption, through advising, training, and influencing practitioners and policymakers, and supporting them to improve outcomes for children and families.

Our vision is a future where every practitioner working with children, young people and their families is knowledgeable, skilled, confident, and empowered to support the safe, secure, and loving care to which every child has a right.

The Independent Care Review helped to highlight the importance of care experienced brothers and sisters maintaining relationships whether or not they are living together – and the extent to which, for many children in Scotland, this has not been happening. Siblings Reunited (STAR) stands out as an example of a project that has helped many children separated in care stay in touch and have positive time together. Set up in 2013, STAR is the only specialist service in Scotland supporting family time together for brothers and sisters where local authorities are unable to provide this from within their own resources. AFA Scotland and STAR have come together with other organisations in Stand Up For Siblings (SUFS), a collaboration formed in 2017 between partner organisations to shape and influence policy, practice, knowledge and service development based on research in Scotland.

AFA and STAR were successful in securing funding for an evidence-based process evaluation of STAR from the Brothers and Sisters cohort of Promise funding, managed by The Corra Foundation. The process evaluation of STAR will enable us to identify best practice in relation to sustaining relationships between brothers and sisters. The aim of the evaluation is to provide evidence and information to help other agencies to consider how they can establish services using a similar approach across Scotland and to consider what can be done to extend the reach of the STAR project.

We are seeking to recruit an experienced and talented individual as a Researcher to contribute to this evaluation project. There is some flexibility required in the role as to how the hours may be worked.

JOB SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

Purpose of the role

This post is primarily to provide support for AFA Scotland's research activities in relation to the process evaluation of STAR, including carrying out research, and providing information on the research project for AFA's multi-disciplinary membership. The post-holder will support the lead researcher undertaking a process evaluation of Siblings Reunited (STAR).

The role will involve:

- Working with stakeholders to seek information about their practice and experiences of STAR
- Contributing to refinement of data collection instruments including surveys, and interview and focus group topic guides
- Undertaking data collection, including interviews with care experienced children and young people, caregivers, and social workers, focus groups with project volunteers, and possibly ethnographic observation
- Accessing and synthesising secondary data and literature from a range of sources
- Undertaking data analysis (mostly qualitative)
- Seeking and incorporating feedback on draft materials
- Writing for different audiences (including children and young people) as part of the research team
- Helping to organise activities to disseminate learning
- Participating in research team meetings
- Carrying out administrative tasks to support the project

The post-holder will be expected to work primarily from home but may be required to attend occasional meetings in Edinburgh, and travel to the STAR project in Fife and potentially elsewhere in Scotland for the purposes of data collection. All travel and in-person contact will comply with concurrent government guidance relating to COVID-19.

Essential Criteria

- At least a master's degree in social sciences, or a related field
- Knowledge of research methods, including qualitative methods
- Experience of data collection and analysis, including working sensitively and flexibly with research participants
- Knowledge of care experienced children and their families or related areas, and preferably experience of working directly with children and young people
- Excellent communication skills and ability to write for a range of audiences
- Ability to engage external collaborators
- Ability to work autonomously as part of a small team, including meeting agreed deadlines

APPLICATIONS

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter, which should briefly address each of the essential criteria outlined above to: Brenda Reilly, Business Support & Finance Manager at brenda.reilly@afascotland.com. We particularly welcome applications from people with relevant care experience who also meet the criteria.

If you would like to discuss the post further, please contact Mark Hardy on mark.hardy@afascotland.com