

PROJECT ENABLE FREELANCE EXTERNAL EVALUATOR BRIEF

Soft Touch Arts and project partners Team Hub (the New Parks resident-run community centre) and New College Leicester work collaboratively to help 11-16 year-olds from New Parks through 'Project Enable'. This three-year project supports young people to reach their potential; develop positive life aspirations; widen their comfort zones; establish positive relationships; and change attitudes. Every term in New College the project welcomes a new cohort of participants to our weekly non-curriculum based art and music sessions. After school at Team Hub, art and music sessions are held on Wednesdays and dance sessions on Fridays, all of which are busy with new participants consistently joining. Further opportunities for young people on Project Enable in the evenings, weekends and holidays have included overnight residentials; trips into Leicester; performing at events and creating murals for organisations around the community. The project has been made possible with funding from The National Lottery Community Fund and is now half-way through its three-year programme, ending in December 2024.

We are seeking a freelance evaluation consultant who:

- Has experience of evaluating community-based projects, analysing the findings and writing these up into high quality reports.
- Has the ability to build trusting relationships and communicate with a wide range of people including 11-16 year olds from New Parks; teachers from New College Leicester; and staff from Team Hub and Soft Touch, to collect the data to inform the report

Requirements:

- Work closely with the project coordinator, project manager and project partners and communicate with them throughout the evaluation process. This will include attending meetings with the project team as reasonably required.
- Use a range of collection methods, and a format agreed with the management team, to draw up an evaluation plan.
- Produce a year two evaluation report for The National Lottery Community Fund by mid-February 2024.
- The report will provide information about how the planned outcomes, milestones and participant engagement are being met to inform year three of the programme and to make recommendations for any future similar projects.
- Evidence of the right to live and work in the UK, self-employed status and a current enhanced DBS certificate.

Information will be collected from:

- Participants in New College and Team Hub
- Parents, guardians and other family members of participants
- Staff from New College Leicester and Team Hub
- Soft Touch Arts staff and project interns
- Representatives of partner organisations
- Other organisations in the community
- Anyone else with significant involvement in the project

Additional information may also need to be collected, such as local area statistics.

Fee

The agreed fee is £5,000 (exclusive of VAT if applicable) inclusive of expenses, eg travel, payable on receipt of invoices:

- £2,000 at the start of the project
- £2,000 midway through the project
- £1,000 on completion of the final report

Timescale

The contract will start at the beginning of November 2023 and finish mid-February 2024.

Additional information

Project Enable improves life chances through creativity and raises aspirations for young people in New Parks. New Parks is the largest council estate, situated on the outer edge of Leicester.

The project co-ordinates music, art, dance and creative projects between Soft Touch Arts, New College, and Team Hub. Soft Touch Arts co-ordinate sessions on a weekly basis delivered by professional practitioners. In every session we use creativity to widen participants comfort zones, establish positive relationships, promote wellbeing and self-confidence and develop resilience and skill set. During Project Enable, young people are supported with their mental health, address anxiety and friendship isolation and are given the skills to break cyclical behaviour patterns.

Process of applying to deliver the brief

Please respond to the requirements outlining your relevant experience and your approach and methodology for carrying these out in no more than two sides of A4. Links to your website and relevant work can be included in the response.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 17 October and interviews will be held on Friday 20 October 2023. Please keep this day available.

Submission of your application is by email only to becky@soft-touch.org.uk. For any questions or clarification please contact sally@soft-touch.org.uk.



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