



Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership

Nova VCSE Advocate Vacancy

Role Description For:

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive

The Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) Executive works to protect children and young people from harm, providing strategic oversight to ensure high quality safeguarding practice is in place across the district. The WSCP Executive oversees the delivery of safety priorities set out in the Wakefield District Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2028 and employs a cross sector, collaborative approach to ensure the safety and welfare of all children and young people in the Wakefield district.

In partnership and facilitated by Nova, the Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive is recruiting a Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Advocate.

Overview of the role

The VCSE Sector Advocate will attend board meetings and champion the sector. They will provide knowledge and insight about the needs of VCSE groups and the diverse communities they serve, sharing information from and to the sector. The role is not to lobby for an individual organisation or viewpoint but to advocate for the collective sector, promoting collaborative working.

The Advocate will have considerable experience and practical knowledge of safeguarding children, with experience working within a VCSE organisation which supports children at risk. They will contribute to ensuring

that partners and organisations are aware of and meeting their safeguarding obligations and will share and embed learning to improve safeguarding practices to protect children.

The WSCP Executive will meet 8 times per year for 2 hourly meetings. We ask that interested applicants commit themselves to these meetings.

If you would like to see the Terms of Reference for WSCP Executive, please request using the contact details below.

Who we are looking for

You will be a leader from the VCSE sector with an excellent understanding of the Wakefield District VCSE sector and ability to effectively communicate critical issues and influence decision making and policy. Please note that you do not have to be a CEO to apply for this role: you may be a volunteer, board member, or work in front-line service delivery. We encourage a range of VCSE leaders with different leadership experience to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Advocate for and where possible, represent the VCSE sector during Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership, drawing upon knowledge of the broader sector beyond your own organisation
- Provide key insight about VCSE organisations providing services for children and young people in Wakefield District
- Share information and feedback about safeguarding practice, challenges, and risks within the VCSE sector
- Contribute to safeguarding reviews and learning, using this to create and embed best practice
- Share and embed safeguarding learning within the VCSE sector
- Champion the voices of young people and ensure their ideas, needs, and wants are represented
- Commit to attend all relevant meetings or give sufficient notice if you are unable to attend
- Commit to meeting preparation time, including reading relevant papers and preparing presentations where required
- Maintain regular contact with Nova for ongoing support and feedback

- Communicate information and insight from meetings back into the sector and to peers. This may include providing short vlog updates about meetings
- Attend VCSE Voices meeting and offer peer support and development to other VCSE Advocates

Skills and Experience

- Strong understanding and working knowledge of the Wakefield district VCSE sector
- Strong working knowledge of services for children and young people delivered in the VCSE sector
- Detailed working knowledge of child safeguarding policy and procedure
- Experience handling and reporting safeguarding concerns
- Strong working knowledge of current safeguarding risks in the district
- Practical experience working with and supporting children at risk
- Ability to advocate for the sector: champion success and recommend support needed
- Experience of developing and influencing policy
- Effective communication and active listening skills, with experience of public speaking
- Ability to think strategically and solve problems
- Ability to work collaboratively to develop and achieve successful outcomes

Additional Information

A range of support is available for Advocates – when and if needed – to enable successful participation in board meetings and decision making processes. Support will consist of a full induction to the role with tailored training, secretariat support, briefing and peer support.

A cohort of VCSE Advocates attend 20 boards, and together they form a wider VCSE Voices Network. The Network meets regularly for peer support, discussion and to develop the role of Advocates, providing a central hub of VCSE knowledge and expertise.

Nova value the expertise and time commitment needed to fulfil the role of VCSE Advocate. As such, Advocates will be paid backfill: the successful applicant will be paid at a rate of £24.89 per hour, which will apply to both

preparation time and meeting time. Hourly payment is inclusive of incurred travel expenses. However, for advocates with disabilities, additional expenses will be paid.

How to apply

You can apply by sending a short-written statement or a video explaining your experience and relevant skills, and why you would like to get involved to vcsevoices@nova-wd.org.uk

We want as many people to be involved as possible. If you are considering the opportunity but would like a more detailed discussion about the role, the support available and commitment, or if you need support with your application, please contact VCSEVoices@nova-wd.org.uk

Applications will be reviewed by current VCSE Advocates, and there will be informal interview process with a view to the successful Advocate assuming their role in as soon as possible.