

Employer:	Active Black Country Ltd, supported by Sandwell MBC
Job title:	Community Connector
Location:	Home based and office location in the Black Country Area. Role to cover the following wards in Sandwell. Langley Soho and Victoria St Pauls
Contract:	12 months fixed term contract, with possible extension subject to performance and funding
Salary:	£27,000 (FTE)
Hours of work:	37.5 hours per week
Reporting to:	Line management Active Black Country Ltd. Work programme agreed by Active Black Country Ltd and Sandwell MBC

Purpose of the role

The role will work as part of the 'Commonwealth Active Communities' project, which aims to use the 2022 Commonwealth Games as a catalyst to inspire people to lead a more active lifestyle.

A key element of the role will be the building of connections with local people and community organisations to develop understanding of the factors that can influence local opportunities for people to be physically active and support a healthier lifestyle.

The role will work closely with a range of partners to maximise the breadth of local assets available, with a particular focus on local spaces and places, including parks and the canal network, to improve and develop activities and events that provide local people with the opportunity to move more and be physically active.

Specific duties

- To carry out regular engagement with people living in specified areas, developing an understanding of existing barriers and motivations to adopting an active lifestyle, using the findings to inform the Commonwealth Active Communities programme and shape ongoing and future delivery.
- To identify and build relationships with a diverse range of local community organisations e.g., faith leaders & social prescribers alongside wider stakeholders to generate ideas, become advocates and highlight existing community-led interventions that will support the development and delivery of activities that are meaningful to local people.
- Provide guidance, information, and practical support to increase the quality, quantity and sustainability of local community organisations' active lifestyles offer.
- To build relationships and networks between local community organisations to increase the connectivity, range and reduce duplication in the offer of active lifestyle opportunities.
- Connect individuals and families to community resources, practical help, group activities and volunteering opportunities to meet health needs and increase social participation.
- To activate green, grey and blue space to get people active, contributing to better local places to live and bring people together.
- To promote opportunities to encourage people to be active, providing ongoing support to local community organisations to raise awareness and accessibility of local services that support active lifestyles.
- Promote the Activation Academy to partners and advocate and identify opportunities to recruit local people as Commonwealth Active Community Champions.
- Build understanding of local partners strategies, programmes, and structures e.g., Social Prescribing work.
- Develop a local action plan, involving communities and local services working together at any stage of planning cycle, from identifying needs and agreeing priorities, through to implementation and evaluation.
- Share learning across the CAC Community Connector network, Black Country CAC Community Connector lead and CAC Steering group and other learning partners to build shared understanding of the challenges to being active and how we can collectively deliver future services.
- Support the external evaluation of the Black Country Commonwealth Active Communities programme.

General duties

- Contribute to the wider development of the organisation, contribute to staff meetings and work harmoniously with colleagues and external partners, supporting others in their work.

- Understand and promote the priorities, and activities and best interests of the organisation and those outlined in the Commonwealth Games Active Communities project plan.
- Achieve agreed performance targets and participate in regular supervision and personal reviews.
- Engage in training, identify personal and professional development needs, and continuously seek to refresh knowledge in relation to the job.
- Cooperate in the formulation and development of systems for monitoring and evaluating the work of the organisation and the project.
- Treat with confidentiality any information about any organisation, its staff, trustees, or clients that is sensitive, personal, or private.
- Cover the work of colleagues during holidays or absences.
- Be aware of and always adhere to the organisation's policies and procedures, including the organisation's equal opportunities policies and with due regard for health and safety.
- Travel to all parts of the allocated borough and the wider Black Country as appropriate to deliver the role.
- Work flexibly and be available for occasional out-of-hours working (including evenings, weekends, and bank holidays) as appropriate.

Person Specification

(How identified: S = Shortlisting, I = Interview, T = Test/task)

Essential Criteria

- Significant experience of working with the voluntary and community sector at all levels, including staff, volunteers, trustees, and management committees. (S)
- Experience of building the capacity of voluntary and community organisations, with a focus on active lifestyle provision. (S/I)
- Knowledge of active lifestyle barriers and motivators and methods of overcoming barriers and maximising motivations to increase community activity. (S/I)
- Knowledge of the wider determinants of health in relation to active lifestyle barriers (S/I)
- Experience of building positive relationships. (S/I)
- Experience of developing and delivery effective training sessions to a varied audience in community settings. (S/I)
- Experience of developing successful partnerships and networks, by bringing individuals and organisations together. (S/I)
- Experience of successful engagement with communities, to consult on needs and to motivate to engage in local projects and programmes. (S/I)
- Excellent communication orally, face to face, and in writing with ability to motivate and influence through communications. (S/I)
- Experience in delivering community-based activity. (S/I)
- Ability to effectively prioritise work and meet agreed deadlines. (I)

- Ability to work independently or as part of a team. (S/I)
- Good computer literacy including Microsoft Office software. (S)
- Knowledge and understanding of data protection, safeguarding and health and safety (S)

Desirable Criteria

- Knowledge of the value of the local voluntary and community sector (S)
- Knowledge and understanding of the leisure sector; its partners, programmes, and opportunities. (S)
- Knowledge of the canal infrastructure and the benefits of activating it
- Knowledge of and the ability to implement behaviour change theory (S)
- Knowledge of social prescribing activities (S/I)

Other requirements

Our work with voluntary and community organisations requires a degree of flexibility and the post holder will occasionally be expected to work out of normal office hours including evenings and weekends.

Interviews will be held on 14th November 2023 at Active Black Country, 1st Floor, Neville House, Steelpark Road, Halesowen, B62 8HD.