

16/3/2019

Dear Youth@Heart, Fellow Trustees, Volunteers, Supporters and Grant Givers,

Congenital Heart Disease Youth Worker Post

On behalf of the Bristol Heart Institute (BHI) I wanted to write and celebrate the collaborative partnership taking place between the BHI and Youth@Heart, and the progress made with regard to the Youth Worker post, one of Youth@Heart's main charitable aims.

We hugely appreciate the incredible and ongoing fundraising undertaken by so many Youth@Heart supporters and volunteers. Working in the field of congenital heart disease (CHD) across the South West and South Wales, we know at first-hand how valuable this role will be for young people, (Aged 16-24) with CHD, and what an impact it will have. In addition, we recognise the knowledge that others care enough to help and understand the challenges they face, will be of benefit to the young people's emotional wellbeing. CHD can be a very frightening, hidden and isolating condition.

To give this new Youth Worker role and the collaborative partnership between Youth@Heart and the Bristol Heart Institute longevity, it has been essential to ensure that all elements are appropriately considered. This requires robust scrutiny by all stakeholders within both University Hospitals Bristol and Youth@Heart and is by its very nature, an exacting and lengthy process.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that the job description has been considered by a number of professionals; including the youth worker for Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, the patient engagement team, the Teenage Cancer Trust Youth Support Co-ordinator, Youth Services Development Officer for Little hearts Matter, the psychologist for adult congenital heart disease, a number of cardiologists, senior nurses and managers.

The final process included:

- *Submitting the job through the BHI vacancy control panel who meet weekly.*
- *Finalised job was reviewed by an NHS banding panel to fulfil NHS partnership collaboration requirements.*
- *The job was advertised on NHS jobs and other sites deemed necessary to attract high calibre candidates.*
- *A short-listing process. This can take several days depending on the number of applications. Candidates will need to be given reasonable notice of their forthcoming interview. Interview date was in the advert, and it is likely that this process will take 7-10 days in total.*
- *Formal interview, with partner agencies. The successful applicant will need to undergo thorough checks (including enhanced DBS check) which can take several weeks.*
- *Once all checks are complete a formal offer can be issued. This will then enable the appointee to hand in their notice and work their notice period (minimum four weeks likely).*
- *Once in post, the candidate will undergo a standard induction.*

We foresee the success of this role, and to ensure it is sustainable, we recognise the importance of continued fundraising to cover activities and advisory workshops for the young people and their families. On-going evaluation will also be essential to ensure the long-term viability of this post.

In conjunction with Youth@Heart, we will be monitoring the outcomes achieved and scoping the shape of the Youth Worker post for the future. We know that Youth@Heart will continue to proactively raise additional monies and seek multiple income streams from different sources.

We wish Youth@Heart continued success and would like to thank all of those who are helping them to make a real difference to the lives of young people born with CHD.

Yours sincerely,

Sheena Vernon

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Lead Nurse

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