**Job Advert**

**Development worker older people’s projects**

at Waterloo Action Centre 14 Baylis Rd, SE1 7AA. 14 hours a week for 10 months – flexible during weekday, daytime hours. Ideally including some Tuesdays, Weds, Thursdays.

Salary £8,333 (Which would be £25K if post were full time and for a full year).

Application forms and further information from WAC reception or wac.office1971@gmail.com. Closing date 20th April at 1pm.

**Aim of post**

**To meet the needs of as many older people as possible in the Waterloo area by:**

1. Publicising existing activity groups which have space for more people to join.
2. Identifying local unmet interests among older people and either
	1. help them revive groups which have disbanded during lock down.
	2. or assist potential members to create new activities.
3. Where necessary obtaining extra resources needed by the group eg raising small grants for tutor hours, or start-up costs. 0r other resources such as free/reduced tickets to theatres
4. The person appointed would need to do their own admin, except where help can be obtained from group members. Also to maintain essential data relating to the project and provide reports as necessary on the work.

**Skills needed**

* Respect for older people including recognition that many retired people have a lot to contribute and wish to do so.
* Ability to help people develop things on a mutual support basis rather than do things for them.
* Experience and commitment to working with people from diverse backgrounds and helping them shape activities according to their needs and interests, including running their groups in the language of their choice.
* Good written and verbal communication skills. Including excellent listening skills and basic computer skills competence
* Ability to working as a team with others involved in WAC and the wider community in Waterloo.
* Ability to help fundraising and obtaining other resources needed by groups.
* Knowledge of the local area

**Line manager** WAC Centre Co-ordinator David Andrews. Professional advice/support on work with older people and development of fundraising skills and community contact as necessary from WAC’s Vice Chair Jenny Stiles.

**Background information for Development Worker post**

Waterloo Action Centre (WAC) is a community centre, developed and run since the 1970s by locally elected Trustees. WAC serves the whole community, but to achieve this includes a particular focus on drawing on those who would otherwise miss out, such as retired people. In the year prior to lockdown WAC had over 30,000 users. WAC’s ethnic diversity is higher than average for Lambeth as a whole.

WAC core values

* Social inclusion and equality of opportunity.
* Opportunities for all who wish to give as well as to receive (which in our experience is most people).
* Strong networks which interlink to form and sustain community.
* Services planned and controlled by those who know best (usually consumers, potential consumers and those who understand and respect them).
* Empowerment and education so that people can lead richer lives individually and collectively.

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WAC is open 7 days a week, morning to evening. Many activities attract people across the generations. On Monday to Thursday mornings and afternoons there are some groups mainly aimed at older people, although others can attend. Often these weekly groups are run on a mutual support basis by the users. These include WACi Arts, Mauritian Pensioners, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon clubs and a Wednesday Men's Group. Others have expert tutors eg Gentle Exercise, Tai Chi, Line Dancing but also encourage user involvement in the running by users. A sewing group which was flourishing before lockdown is currently being revived.

Other resources in WAC designed particularly with older people in mind include

use of computers Tuesday and Thursdays, with an IT specialist’s support for pre-booked sessions in the 2 afternoons. Also individual support sessions on accessing NHS on-line on Monday afternoons, a welfare benefits worker 3 days a week to assist older people and people with disabilities, and a monthly Tea Dance. There are many other activities in WAC which will be of interest to some retired people.

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**Why is this post so important now?**

Many people now have long post-retirement years. Leaving work doesn’t mean you lose your abilities - but you lose somewhere to go, somewhere to make new friends, to contribute, learn new skills etc. Gradually without these sources of renewal, loneliness and ill health set in. The groups at WAC provide a way forward for those who attend and friendships and mutual support and creativity flower. Reciprocity, normal life! Forget Ageism.

The lock down years have been devastating for some older people, who have been bereaved and/or largely isolated, have lost self-confidence, mental and physical wellbeing. The world is increasingly relying on computers. Rising costs will affect savings. More than ever it is important to reach out and include as many retired people as possible Then they too can get back to having friends which means having someone to give to as well as receive from.