

Peer Connector HOME HUB

JOB INFORMATION PACK



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Help us support young people across South Yorkshire!

Job Purpose:

To join our small team supporting young people aged 16–24 with mild to moderate depression, anxiety or being neurodivergent who are struggling to enter the workplace (actively job-seeking for 4+ months).

This role will be expected to offer weekly 1-2-1 and group work sessions which enable the young people to progress onwards into further education and training opportunities which can support their progression into work.

In addition you will be expected to work in partnership with other organisations and services in Barnsley to increase the skills and employability of young people to get ready for, get into and get on work.

This support will be delivered through peer-led, personalised, and community-based approaches that promote wellbeing, build confidence, and connect young people to local services, opportunities, and networks.

The ideal candidate will need to be a thoughtful and flexible practitioner who places young people and their welfare at the heart of their practice and has a compassionate, authentic approach. They will have a demonstrable commitment to equality and social justice and be a positive team player willing to share learning and good practice.



About us

The Children and Young People's Empowerment Project (Chilypep) is a charity supporting vulnerable children and young people. For over 20 years, we've empowered thousands to campaign on issues that matter to them, focusing on youth-driven strategies and early intervention.

At HOME we have developed a blended approach to therapeutic youth work which provides young people in Barnsley with platform to seek safety and stability whilst then helping them to develop their skills, manage their emotions and handle their relationships.

HOME is staffed by a blended team of youth workers, mental health professionals and creative practitioners. The role is one of two Peer Connectors supporting young people age 16 - 25 through HOME and our 16+ Transitions work.

HOME is also host to the Youth Employment Hub, a partnership between BMBC and the Department of Work and Pensions. This role will work closely with the Youth Employment Hub Advisors to support referrals and young people that are claiming Universal Credit.

Job description

Job Title: Peer Connector – Barnsley Council Pathways to Work programme

Salary: Scale 22: £30,708.00 to Scale 24 £32, 523

Hours: 37 hours per week (flexible working, including some evenings/weekends)

Location: HOME, Wellbeing Hub, Wellington House, Barnsley

Reports to: Keely Hardy, Senior Project Worker

Funding for post: provided by BMBC for 1 year from employment start date

Key responsibilities

Support and Engagement

- Build trusting, non-judgemental relationships with young people through 1-2-1 and group sessions.
- Use lived experience and peer insight to relate to and support participants.
- Co-design wellbeing and progression plans based on “what matters” to each young person.
- Support and 'hand hold' young people to access local services, education, training, and employment opportunities.
- Maintain regular contact with each young person—typically 1–2 meaningful contacts per week, depending on need.
- Work with young people for a minimum of 12 weeks, with flexibility to extend support based on individual progress and goals.

Navigation and Advocacy

- Act as a consistent point of contact, helping young people navigate services and systems.
- 'Handhold' to appropriate support, including mental health, housing, and employment services.
- Accompany young people to appointments or community activities.

Community and Collaboration

- Work closely with colleges, employers, health professionals, and VCSE partners.
- Promote the programme and raise awareness of the needs of young people with mild to moderate mental health challenges or neurodivergence.
- Help build inclusive, youth-friendly community networks.

Safeguarding and Professional Practice

- Apply safeguarding procedures and maintain professional boundaries at all times.
- Keep accurate records and contribute to monitoring and evaluation.
- Participate in supervision, training, and reflective practice.

Data and reporting

- Record relevant information relating to the contact with the young people in a structured and consistent way
- Work with confidential information and only share information in appropriate, pre-agreed ways
- Access and process information in line with GDPR, Caldicott Principles etc.

Essential criteria

Experience & Knowledge:

- Lived experience of mental health challenges, neurodivergence, or barriers to education/employment.
- Experience supporting or mentoring young people (formally or informally).
- Understanding of the challenges faced by young people with mild to moderate mental health needs.
- Awareness of local services and the wider determinants of health (e.g. housing, income, education).

Skills & Abilities:

- Excellent communication and listening skills.
- Ability to build rapport and trust with young people.
- Strong organisational skills and ability to manage a caseload.
- Confidence using digital tools (e.g. email, wellbeing apps, online forms).
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Personal Qualities:

- Empathetic, resilient, and reliable.
- Passionate about youth empowerment and inclusion.
- Committed to equality, diversity, and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Willingness to learn and grow through training and supervision.

Other Requirements:

- Enhanced DBS check (or willingness to obtain one).
- Ability to travel across the region.
- Flexibility to work evenings/weekends if needed.

"Chilypep has really impacted my life for the better and now I can focus on my life and work to fix my issues without my mental health declining. All I can say is thank you to Chilypep and my worker for improving my quality of life and helping me feel like me again."

- Young person



Our offer to you

- 38 days of Annual Leave, including bank holidays (pro rata)
- 8% employer pension contribution
- Cycle-to-Work Scheme
- Beyond savings card and discounts
- Flexibility to take Bank Holiday days when it suits you
- Special leave for bereavement, study, and personal circumstances
- Regular team social events
- An inclusive, friendly, and supportive work environment
- A highly experienced team
- Learning and development opportunities

How to apply

An application pack including our application form with details of where to send your completed application can be found on our website at: <https://chilypep.org.uk/vacancies-volunteering/>

Closing Date: 9am, Monday 27th July

Interviews : Friday 14th August at HOME, Wellington House, Market Street, Barnsley, S70 1WA

Completed application to be sent to Recruitment@chilypep.org.uk

All candidates must have existing permission to work in the UK.

Chilypep are an equal opportunity employer. Our mission is to welcome everyone and create inclusive teams. We celebrate differences and encourage everyone to join us and be themselves at work. Our policy is to recruit a diverse workforce and follow the guidelines of the Equality Act. We are an employer that values lived experience at all levels of our organisation.

Our priority is to safeguard and protect the Children and Young People we work with, and we operate within strict Safe Recruitment Practices, including a DBS check, social media check, and 2 references covering a period on no less than 3 years for all staff and volunteers.

Contact us

We're always happy to hear from children, young people, their parents or carers who may want to get involved with our projects.

0114 234 8846
info@chilypep.org.uk
chilypep.org.uk

