Primary Advisory Teacher - Intergenerational Linking

Post: Primary Advisory Teacher for Intergenerational Linking – 0.6 FTE

Working day: Our working day is 7.5 hours and there is flexibility regarding start and finish times

Part-time employees can opt to request that they regularly work more hours in term time and fewer hours in school holidays.

Working days/ patterns can be flexible e.g. 0.6 hours worked over 4 days, and can be discussed at interview.

Organisation: The Linking Network

Salary: £34,000 - £41,698 per annum pro rata

Tenure: Fixed term for 2-years in the first instance

Location: Hybrid – based at home and in our office in Bradford city centre. Including regular travel (sometimes daily) across Bradford district to schools, care homes and community settings. There may be occasional national travel.

Responsible to: The Linking Network Directors or a senior member of the TLN team with Intergenerational Linking experience

Application deadline: Tuesday 6th October at 5pm

Submit application to: Please email application forms to info@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk

Start date: 1st January 2027 or sooner if possible

Interview details:

First round interviews will be held online on Thursday 15th October.

Second round face-to-face interviews will take place on Thursday 22nd October.

If you have any questions: Please email info@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk

Introduction

'I felt really nervous my first time there because I didn't know anyone, but now I like it because I know lots of people at the care home.' ***(Pupil)***

This is a rare and genuinely rewarding opportunity to be at the heart of one of Bradford's most distinctive community programmes. Every term, across the Bradford district, children and older people are building real, lasting friendships across generations – visiting each other, sharing stories, creating memories, and in doing so, enriching each other's lives in ways that go far beyond what any of them expected.

The Linking Network's Intergenerational Linking programme brings together children and young people in schools with older people in care homes, independent living schemes and community groups. We currently have approximately 55 intergenerational partnerships across Bradford and are looking for a skilled, warm and well-organised practitioner to help us sustain, develop and celebrate this work. You will be the connective thread between schools and older people's settings – supporting teachers and care staff with organisation and planning, encouraging excellent practice, visiting intergenerational sessions as they happen and helping everyone involved to feel confident and inspired. You will also play a key role in building new partnerships across Bradford and ensuring the programme continues to thrive

'I've been teaching for over 25 years and hand on heart I can say it was one of the most magical experiences of my career.' ***(Deputy Headteacher taking part in Intergenerational Linking)***

About The Linking Network

The Linking Network inspires and equips schools to support children and young people to build meaningful connections across all forms of difference. As well as our Bradford Intergenerational Linking programme, we work with 26 Local Authority Areas to deliver a local Schools Linking Programme, collectively reaching 26,000 children, 850 classes in over 500 schools across England. Schools Linking brings together two classes from different schools in a district in a thoughtfully planned, year-long programme.

For more information, visit: https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/

About Intergenerational Linking in Bradford

In Bradford, we also deliver Intergenerational Linking – connecting schools with care homes, independent living schemes and older people's community groups to build meaningful relationships between generations.

We have established 55 Intergenerational Links across Bradford district, connecting nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, post-16 colleges and a Pupil Referral Unit with a wide range of older people's settings. Our approach is rooted in Intergroup Contact Theory: we believe that skilled facilitation, joint planning, thorough preparation and activities that give participants genuine agency are the foundations of meaningful intergenerational connection.

The impact speaks for itself. Older people experience increased joy, engagement, a renewed sense of purpose and reduced loneliness. Children develop confidence, communication skills and empathy – with particularly strong outcomes for those with SEND. Families speak of the pride and warmth their children bring home. Staff in schools and care settings describe increased job satisfaction and renewed professional purpose.

'It just brings a smile to their faces. Their confidence comes through, their speech can improve, their imagination sparks.' ***(Care worker)***

To find out more about Intergenerational Linking

Our website

Evaluation report of Intergenerational Linking

A short video about the programme

Purpose

The Intergenerational Linking Advisory Teacher will play a central role in delivering and developing The Linking Network's Intergenerational programme across Bradford district. You will be the day-to-day presence that keeps Links running, relationships flourishing and best practice embedded. Working across a genuine mix of community settings – from primary classrooms to care home lounges – you will bring energy, warmth and professional skill to everything you do. We are looking for someone who is excited to develop their own expertise about intergenerational best practice.

We are excited to also be developing a digital platform to be used for Intergenerational Linking, providing a tool where schools and older people's settings can arrange sessions, access resources to use in the session and capture the impact. A key part of this role will be the development and implementation of this platform. This platform is new to us so we are looking for someone who is excited to learn more about this alongside us.

We can offer flexibility with this role. You will work with a high degree of autonomy, managing your own diary across a varied caseload of Links, while being closely supported by the TLN team. There is real scope to shape and develop the role over time, contributing to the future direction of the programme.

We are a small team that achieves big things. Working for The Linking Network requires taking on substantial responsibility, being versatile, dependable and innovative in a supportive environment. There will also be times when you will be supporting the team to deliver the wider work of The Linking Network.

Key Responsibilities

Programme Delivery

- Manage the administration involved in organising and maintaining Links, including regular communication by email and phone with schools and older people's settings throughout the academic year
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with teachers, headteachers, care home managers, supported living coordinators and community group leads across Bradford
- Support teachers and care staff to plan and prepare for Intergenerational Linking, drawing on TLN's best practice model and resources
- Maintain accurate records of all Links, visits and key contacts, using TLN's systems to ensure information is up to date and accessible
- Regularly visit intergenerational sessions as they happen in schools, care homes, supported living schemes and community settings across Bradford district
- Provide skilled facilitation support during intergenerational sessions, helping to create the conditions for genuine connection between children and older people
- Respond flexibly when sessions need rescheduling, staff change or settings need re-engaging, acting as a trusted and consistent presence for all involved
- Develop and refine resources that can be used in Intergenerational Linking, drawing on research about best practice
- Deliver and in the future develop TLN's Dementia Ambassador training with primary-aged children, including partnerships with authors, artists and older people living with dementia

Development of an online platform - this is new to us too!

- Support the onboarding and implementation of a new digital platform to streamline communications between schools and older people's settings, ensuring partners are confident in using it and it is fit for purpose

- Liaise with partners to gather feedback about the platform and develop its functionality alongside our digital agency
- Monitor usage of the digital platform and provide ongoing support to schools and older people's settings

Building and sustaining partnerships, raising the profile of Intergenerational Linking

- Actively seek and develop new partnerships with schools and older people's settings to grow the number of Links across the district
- Gather stories, quotes, photographs and evidence of impact from Links across Bradford, building a growing record of the programme's difference
- Convene and facilitate the Intergenerational Advisory Group three times a year, bringing together key stakeholders to share learning and shape the programme's development
- Develop connections with partner organisations, community networks and relevant sector bodies across Bradford that will keep the programme vibrant and well-connected
- Represent The Linking Network at relevant events, meetings and forums across the district
- Produce a newsletter once per term to celebrate the work, share good practice and keep schools and older people's settings connected and inspired

Other

- Support the evaluation of the programme, including through gathering data, facilitating reflection with participants and contributing to reports for funders and trustees
- Contribute to TLN's wider communications work, including social media, case studies and impact reports, by providing rich stories and evidence from Bradford
- Support fundraising for the Intergenerational programme, including contributing to funding applications and providing timely, high-quality reports to funders
- Contribute to organisational planning, team meetings and the wider work of The Linking Network as required

Person Specification

Essential

- Commitment to TLN's mission: to inspire and equip schools to support children and young people to build meaningful connections across all forms of difference.
- A degree-level qualification
- Qualified teacher status (QTS) and at least two years experience of teaching in a primary school. We are interested in candidates at all stages of their career.
- A warm, personable approach, with the ability to build trusted relationships with a wide range of people, from headteachers and class teachers to care home managers, older residents and community partners
- Skilled at facilitation, with the confidence to support group activities and help participants build genuine connections
- Strong organisational skills, with the ability to manage a varied caseload, prioritise effectively and meet deadlines
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to produce clear, engaging content for a range of audiences

- A proactive, self-directed approach - comfortable working independently across community settings and using initiative
- A valid driving licence and access to a vehicle so that you able **to travel regularly across the Bradford district (mileage will be reimbursed at the government rate of 55p per mile)**
- Commitment to safeguarding and the ability to work in full compliance with TLN's safeguarding and child protection and vulnerable adult policies
- High levels of integrity, honesty and credibility, with the ability to maintain the highest standards of confidentiality
- Commitment to ongoing learning and willingness to undertake professional development as required

Desirable (training to be provided as needed)

- Experience of working with or in older people's settings (care homes, supported living, community groups)
- Knowledge of intergenerational practice, dementia awareness or related areas
- Experience of coordinating or facilitating community partnerships or multi-stakeholder programmes
- Experience of supporting funding bids or reporting to funders
- Familiarity with digital communications tools, newsletter platforms or content management systems
- Knowledge of Bradford district, its communities and its schools and care sector landscape

Benefits and Conditions of Service

- 0.60 FTE. Part-time employees can opt to request that they regularly work more hours in term time and fewer hours in school holidays. Our working day is 7.5 hours and there is flexibility regarding start and finish times. Part-time employees can opt to request that they regularly work more hours in term time and fewer hours in school holidays.
- Working days/ pattern to be discussed at interview
- Hybrid working: a genuine mix of home or office-based work from our Bradford city centre office. Including regular travel across Bradford district to schools, care homes and community settings
- Holidays: 35 days per year, plus Bank Holidays, pro rata – holidays are usually taken during school holidays.
- Tailored training and professional development opportunities
- Comprehensive pension scheme with People's Pension (6% employer contribution)
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme that supports health and wellbeing in the workplace
- All offers of appointment are subject to TLN receiving satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check
- All appointments are subject to a probationary period
- All applicants must have the right to work in the UK

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Linking Network is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in all its activities, processes and culture. The focus of our work is on bringing people from diverse backgrounds together to inspire community cohesion. We are striving to build a team that reflects the wide range of communities we work with. We are committed to nurturing an inclusive and cohesive environment, where everyone can thrive, irrespective of working patterns, socio-economic background, protected characteristics, or any other circumstance.

Safeguarding

The Linking Network is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and as such have robust recruitment, selection and induction procedures. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check with appropriate children barred list check. A person who is included in the children and or adults barred list commits an offence if they engage in regulated activity from which they are barred.

How to Apply

Please send a completed application form to info@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk with the subject line **'Application: Primary Advisory Teacher - Intergenerational Linking'**.

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 6th October at 5pm.**

If you have any questions about the role or if there is anything we can do to support your application, please get in touch at info@thelinkingnetwork.org.uk

Interviews:

First round interviews will be held online on Thursday 15th October.

Second round face-to-face interviews will take place on Thursday 22nd October.

We will offer feedback to candidates who are interviewed. We won't be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates who are not shortlisted.