



## Forest School Session Leader/s – Level 3 Qualified



Grow-Wellbeing CIC is a social enterprise that delivers all year-round programmes that offer creative, personally affirmative opportunities for children, young people and adults to engage in nature-connected activities. Using forest school, creative arts, community gardening, and nature therapy approaches, we aim to support individuals from diverse backgrounds to enhance holistic health and wellbeing and address social isolation.

Grow-Wellbeing was established in 2018 as a socially trading organisation with a mission to support healthy communities, strongly connected to the natural environment. We have a commitment to diversity and inter-generational co-operation, increasing opportunities for the most disadvantaged, including BAME communities, to engage in nature-centred activities to enhance their health and wellbeing. We collaborate with councils, housing associations, health service providers, community organisations, including with other socially trading organisations, to provide a balance of public and community-focused sustainable programmes.

GROW-Wellbeing C.I.C. is ambitious in its' vision to create new nature-connected opportunities for children, adults and families, and is extending its programme of services to create new nature-connected opportunities for children, adults and families in the Liverpool City Region and Cheshire.

Grow is now looking for passionate, inspiring and motivated, level 3 qualified, reflective Forest School Practitioner/s to join our team and help us in leading and

implementing regular outdoor learning sessions on the Wirral and around the Liverpool City Region.

We believe that, and critical research supports this, the holistic development of children and young people is actively promoted and enhanced through positive engagement within the natural environment. Play and learning based within natural environments promotes resilience, autonomy, self-direction, skills development and personal risk management and is shown to improve mental health and cognitive development. It also helps children to develop a greater awareness of the environment and a sense of responsibility to protect it.

The sessions are varied and include regular Kinder Garden (under 5's) and Woodland Explorer (5-14's) groups, forest school sessions in Nursery and Primary Schools, in addition to family workshops, holiday clubs and collaborative nature-connected outdoor wellbeing workshops with disadvantaged groups within local communities. Future developments include alternative provision for disaffected children and young people, dedicated early years forest school provision, and supporting the development of community green spaces for growing, sustainable food projects, health and wellbeing.

As a forest school leader, you will be responsible for planning and implementing play and learning opportunities, tailored to the needs of children, encouraging them to develop to their full potential. You should undertake risk assessment processes to ensure that activities are undertaken with appropriate mitigation in place for the safety of all participants and staff. Forest School Level 3 or 2 qualifications, or Early years & Primary qualifications, and experience of working with younger children would be an advantage but is not essential. You will contribute to a growing team, and it will be expected that you will support other team members with training and skills development.

Applicants are not required to have their own public liability insurance, but should have a relevant first aid qualification. Having a full driving licence (or working towards it) and access to a vehicle is essential. All equipment and resources for delivery of sessions will be provided.

The successful candidate will be required to collect resources, in co-operation with other colleagues, from the GROW workshop base (in Birkenhead) before travelling to the school, nursery or community woodland or green space site, to deliver sessions. A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check will be required in the event of a successful application.

GROW recognises that Forest School leaders come from a range of backgrounds, including early years and primary teaching, play, community and environmental education, green therapies and bushcraft. GROW-Wellbeing CIC has a Diversity and Equalities Policy and we welcome applications from a diverse range of individuals.



## Job Description

### Job Title: **FOREST SCHOOL LEADER**

**Job purpose:** To lead and deliver forest school/ nature-connected programmes in parks, woodlands, schools and greenspaces for children and families in Wirral and Merseyside

**Hours:** Negotiable – from 10 hours per week up to 30 hours per week, with a possibility of additional hours being available subject to programmes/ contracts

**Contract term:** 12 months (subject to review and extension, subject to funding).

**Pay:** £23,088 p.a. up to £25,000 p.a. pro rata (plus employer pension contributions) dependant on experience

**Start date:** for immediate start (subject to references and valid DBS certificate)

**Work location:** Various locations around Birkenhead, Wirral and Liverpool City region, including Cheshire.

**Office base:** Workshop/studio at Make Hamilton Square, Birkenhead CH41 6ND

### Main duties

- Take a lead in planning and delivering daytime and weekend woodland play sessions for children, young people and families
- Deliver good quality forest school, outdoor learning, community gardening and wellbeing sessions in the Wirral/ Merseyside area
- Engage local communities, including disadvantaged and BAME communities, through attending community events and other activities, and marketing as appropriate

- Facilitate a range of learning, games and skills-based activities ensuring sessions are engaging, age appropriate, fun and adhere to Grow-Wellbeing's policies and procedures.
- Adopt learner-centred approaches to ensure children and adults benefit from their engagement and reach their full potential
- Contribute to reflective practice, to enhance quality in service
- Contribute to team development and training
- Liaise closely with the Project Co-ordinator to ensure the smooth delivery of quality programmes of nature-connected activities.
- Liaise with the Project Co-ordinator to manage resources and equipment, to ensure the needs of the activity programmes are constantly met
- Ensure project monitoring and evaluation is completed and submitted in line with requirements
- Attend line management and team meetings and appraisals

### **Responsibilities**

- To adhere to Grow-Wellbeing vision, values, policies and procedures
- To implement Grow-Wellbeing policies and procedures implemented by all staff and volunteers
- A commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
- To attend staff training events and team meetings
- To represent and promote the best interests, vision and values of Grow-Wellbeing in all interactions with parents, community partners, and other agencies.

### **Person specification**

#### **Essential criteria**

- Over 12 months experience of delivering Forest School/ Outdoor Learning
- Skilled and experienced outdoor practitioner with a passion for working in the outdoors and enthusiasm to share it with others

- Enjoy working with children (including very young children) from a range of backgrounds and commitment to supporting their physical, social and emotional development through outdoor play/ forest school activities
- Acknowledge the important role parents play as their child's primary educators
- Skilled and knowledgeable in a range of age-appropriate outdoor activities including games and nature crafts, and able to share skills in line with good practice, policies and procedures
- A good communicator, approachable, supportive and able to enthuse and motivate others
- Good planning and organisational skills and able to work to deadlines
- Proactive at prioritising, problem solving and getting things done
- Able to undertake and provide written risk assessments related to natural environments and activities
- Able to use judgement and intellect to work on own initiative
- Professional approach, with excellent people skills
- A committed team player, recognising and valuing the contribution all staff and volunteers make to the success of our programmes
- A willingness to work co-operatively within local communities
- Committed to Grow-Wellbeing's vision and values
- Adaptable and responsive to the changing needs of our growing organisation
- Full driving licence and access to a vehicle
- Satisfactory Enhanced DBS check

#### **Desirable criteria**

- Forest school level 2 or 3 qualification
- Early years/ Primary qualifications/ experience
- Competent user of communication technology and software
- Up to date Outdoor/Paediatric First Aid qualification



## Equality and Diversity

Grow-Wellbeing CIC wants to meet the aims and commitments set out in its Equality and Diversity policy. This includes not discriminating under the Equality Act 2010, and building an accurate picture of the make-up of the workforce in encouraging equality and diversity.

Grow-Wellbeing needs your help and co-operation to enable it to do this, and asks that if you choose to apply for the position to please complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form, but filling in the form is voluntary.

## Application submission

If you would like to discuss this post/ posts before making an application, please contact: Duane Chong, Programme Director by email [duane@grow-wellbeing.com](mailto:duane@grow-wellbeing.com) or mobile phone, 07841 753309

Please send your completed application form, together with the completed Equality and Diversity monitoring form, to: [contact@grow-wellbeing.com](mailto:contact@grow-wellbeing.com) marking your email: **CONFIDENTIAL: Forest School Leader Application**  
Closing date for applications: **30 November 21**

GROW - Wellbeing  
Community Interest Company