



Development Worker: Food Buddies

**Part time –16 hours per week
15 month appointment
Annual salary: £12,000 (pro rata on £30,000)**

Closing date: Monday 4th December 2017, 5pm

We are recruiting a Development Worker who will focus on the Food Buddies project in Scottish Borders over the next 15 months.

About Outside the Box

Outside the Box was established in 2004.

- We deliver projects that provide peer support and other services that are led by the people who use those services.
- We work with people who get support to develop Tips and other resources, to provide support to a much larger number of people.
- We also provide advice and development support to small groups led by people who need support and often develop new activities in partnership with them.

The people and groups with whom we work are mostly those affected by disadvantage or who feel that they do not have a voice; they include older people, people with disabilities, people with mental health problems and people affected by addictions.

This Development Worker post will focus on delivering the Food Buddies project in Scottish Borders and related work to improve quality of life and opportunities for older people.

The post holder will be part of the small team of staff and sessional workers delivering support to individual people and to community projects across Scotland.

This post may be covered by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups or Disclosure arrangements. All staff may be required to have PVG clearance at any time, and failure to secure clearance is grounds for dismissal.

About the Food Buddies project

The core features of the project are:

- Making life better for people with dementia and their carers, family and friends – enabling people to maintain the life that is ordinary for them and be as independent as they want to be for as long as possible, reducing worry and having more people in their lives who can support them.
- Raising awareness among older people that there are ways to manage well with many situations that arise as they get older.
- Supporting and encouraging peer support – people with dementia, other older people and families sharing their experiences on challenges and solutions.
- Focussing on food – any and all aspects that matter for people with dementia and their carers
- Building the capacity of shops and places like cafes, so people who are affected by dementia and their families and friends can continue to enjoy eating out and being independent.

Food can become a source of worry for many people who have dementia and their carers. Our food needs change as we get older and the impacts of the conditions that cause dementia bring additional difficulties. Being able to plan what we want to eat, shopping for food, cooking, eating at home and eating out can all become more of a challenge.

Activities that we are planning include:

- Sharing information on ways dementia affects how people enjoy food, and how to make meals that work well for people with dementia
- Cooking classes for people who are becoming less confident or are taking this on as a new role
- Finding places where people can meet each other and enjoy coffee or meals in an ordinary way, in mainstream settings that are dementia-friendly
- Building links with local shops, especially in smaller communities, and with other business that sell or serve food.

This is a 5-year project, with funding from the Life Changes Trust. We are just at the start of Year 3.

You can see what the project has achieved at: <http://otbds.org/projects/food-buddies/>

We have started work on a larger short-term project which builds on recent work we have been doing in Scottish Borders. This means we need additional staff to be part of the small team.

These are the main elements of the role

You will:

- Have experience of working with communities
- Have an understanding of the issues that people with dementia and their carers face, or the experience of other older people who experience additional health problems
- Understand the contribution of peer support and be able to support people taking on peer support roles
- Have good organisation skills, good interpersonal skills and good communication skills
- Be enthusiastic and approachable
- Be able to work in a self-directed way – managing your own workload to provide a good quality of support and level of activities within the time and resources available.

Develop activities that increase peer support among people who may be affected by dementia and their families.

Maintain and form good working relationships and build partnerships with community groups, voluntary organisations and with staff in health and local authority teams.

Increase the awareness, confidence and skills of food retailers and the hospitality sector in Scottish Borders, to increase opportunities and access for people who may be affected by dementia.

Plan and organise specific activities and contribute to the overall development of the project.

Contribute to finding sponsorship and additional resources to enable the project's impact to increase.

Be part of building and maintaining good working links with other projects and organisations across Scotland that are doing related work.

Contribute to developing reports or other material to share the information and learning from the project with more people.

These are features of how we work

You will be employed by us and will have all the rights and responsibilities of an employee.

Your line manager is the chief executive.

From time-to-time you may be required to contribute to other work that Outside the Box undertakes.

There are no set hours and times for the work we do. Much of it is during the week and in daytime, but evening and weekend working is an integral part of this type of work.

This project will take place in locations in rural areas and smaller towns that are not always well served by public transport. Travel to projects is an integral element of the work of all staff. You must have a current valid full UK driving license and access to a car.

We are looking at the best base for all the current work in Borders. There is scope for staff to work from other locations when this works for both the project and the people involved: this is by agreement with their line manager.

The wider team meetings take place at the office base in Glasgow.

We plan and are accountable for the work through project planning and monitoring systems that include team meetings, professional supervision, individual work plans and timesheets.

Professional support comes from within the staff team, the board and the associates we work with.

The staff, board and associates together bring a range of skills and experiences. We all contribute and we all learn from other people. Everyone is expected to be adaptable and able to work with a wide range of people and situations.

We aim to promote equality and diversity throughout the work we do and how we work.

More information

Our website is a good source of information about what we do and about specific projects and areas of work: www.otbds.org

We will try to answer questions people have about the post. The first contact for this post is Christine Ryder, who is part of the team working on this project. Anne Connor is the chief executive and she will follow up on any further points.

You can contact us by email – which is usually easiest – or by phone:
Email: Christine@otbds.org Phone: 0141 419 0415

How to apply for the post

What you should send

Please provide 3 things:

1. A CV, explaining what your experience is. We are interested in people's life experience when it is relevant to this post, such as hobbies and roles you do on a voluntary basis, as well as paid work.
2. A short note on what you bring to the main tasks in this job description.
3. The names of 2 people who will give you a reference. They should know you in roles that are relevant for this type of post. We will not contact anyone for a reference until after the interview stage.

There is no application form.

We are also recruiting for a part-time Development Worker for another project in Scottish Borders which focuses on developing more connections and opportunities for people in the rural areas.

You can apply for one post or for both posts: please make it clear in your application which post/s you are applying for.

Where to send applications

The closing date for applications is **Monday 4th December 2017, 5pm.**

You can send them by post or by email:

Email: Christine@otbds.org

Post: 3.10, The Whisky Bond, Glasgow G4 9SS

Interviews

The interviews for this post will take place in Galashiels on Tuesday 12th December.