

Job Description: Designer/researcher (maternity cover)

July 2024

Social Life is a social enterprise, set up in 2012 by the Young Foundation.

Our aim is to reconnect placemaking with the everyday experience of people and neighbourhoods. We work with local authorities, housing associations, developers and community groups, putting people's lived experience at the heart of the way cities, towns and new developments are planned, developed and managed.

- We carry out research in local communities to understand their strengths and challenges and develop recommendations for practical action
- We use research to assess the impact of development, regeneration or other interventions, and create frameworks to understand and measure change
- We get involved in practical projects that engage people in different ways of shaping their neighbourhoods, collaboratively and creatively
- We experiment with mapping and other ways of visualising the insights that we generate.

We are looking for an energetic, creative and efficient designer/researcher with a strong commitment to the type of work we do to cover an existing post for a minimum of six months from early/mid September 2024. This role is four or five days a week.

We are very interested in receiving applications from people who have lived experience of areas going through change, and from people from black and minoritised communities as they are currently underrepresented in our team.

The posts will be based at Social Life's offices in Elephant & Castle, some home-working will be possible but office working will be expected two to three days a week. We are happy to consider flexible working arrangements.

The designer/researcher post will include:

- working on a range of research projects, including developing research materials, coordinating and carrying out research activities such as street interviews, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, and data analysis
- leading on design of reports and other materials, focusing on how we present and visualise our work to maximise its accessibility and meaning
- carrying out participatory and collaborative activities with communities, working with the team to facilitate workshops and events to bring everyday experience into the process of planning, designing and managing local areas
- project managing and taking responsibility for small projects and initiatives
- alongside the wider team, taking part in the day to day management and administration of the office.



We are looking for people with:

- a good understanding of Social Life's work and what motivates us
- knowledge of UK planning, urbanism and urban design, architecture, housing, the community sector, regeneration, new housing development or another related field of Social Life's work
- experience of using a range of different research methods
- data mapping, including knowledge of QGIS
- design skills (including knowledge InDesign and other Adobe tools)
- some experience of project management
- excellent written and verbal communication skills and the ability to deal sensitively with challenging situations and stakeholders and to work collaboratively in our small friendly team
- the flexibility to be able to travel to different locations to carry out work, our work can take us across the UK and beyond.

We can offer:

- an opportunity to develop your research skills and experience working on a range of projects in different locations
- a friendly supportive working environment
- a salary of £28,000 to £35,000 (pro rata), depending on experience
- flexibility: we are open to negotiating a four or five day week.

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