

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title	Violence Against Women and Girls Advocate (VAWG)
Location	Across Cleveland
Hours	Full time (35 per week). The successful candidate would need to work flexibly to meet the needs of the service with some evening and weekend work required.
Salary	£24,675 per annum
Reports to	UNITY Service Manager
Ethos of A Way Out	<p>A Way Out is a charity with a difference.</p> <p>We are an outreach and prevention charity working with the most vulnerable and excluded women, families and young people. We engage, empower, equip and enable to prevent further harm, exploitation and life limiting choices and behaviours.</p> <p>A Way Out is not a “three strikes and you are out” agency, but one that works patiently and tirelessly with grace and mercy at the core, which motivates us to “go the extra mile”.</p> <p>As an organisation based upon Christian values, A Way Out believes in meeting people where they are, building hope and trust, and empowering them towards recovery and ‘a way out’ of their difficulties.</p>
Job Summary	<p>A Way Out’s VAWG Advocate provide early intervention by working with girls and young women aged 16-26 years, who are or have experienced exploitation or gendered violence against them. They may also experience multiple disadvantages and it will be our advocate’s role to build emotional resilience and to empower young women to live a life they choose whilst raising awareness of the risk factors associated with abuse, harm and exploitation.</p> <p>A key aspiration of the project is to prevent the exploitation of vulnerability; the aim being that young women receive holistic support in a structured way through a collaborative assessment and flexible approach. Our delivery model is framed around three core decisive actions: REACH – ENGAGE – EMPOWER with each proposed activity programme linked directly to one or more of these domains.</p> <p>Funded by the Ministry of Justice VAWG Support Service Fund, the VAWG Advocate will work across the Cleveland area across to support young women effected by, or at risk of experiencing sexual exploitation and gendered violence. The post holder will work closely across all of A Way Out’s services and hold a caseload of women.</p> <p>A Way Out have significant experience of the specific difficulties experienced by the girls and young women that have experienced significant trauma because of the exploitation and gendered violence and the specific difficulties maintaining engagement with services when transitioning from children to adults’ services post 18 years. The post will ensure that the young women accessing support will feel empowered to engage with the help they need as they navigate services on offer to them both within A Way Out, and externally.</p> <p>The role will require the post holder to be confident in working alone as well as part of a team and able to represent the organisation when working alongside delivery partners. The post holder will also be responsible for performance reporting in conjunction with the Service Manager as well as continued monitoring and evaluation of the project.</p> <p>It is an Occupational Requirement that applications for this post are open to women only, as permitted under Schedule 9, Part 1, or the Equality Act 2010. Enhanced DBS checks will be required.</p>

Key responsibilities and duties

- Reporting to the UNITY Service Manager, you will be working as part of a team as well as across the services in order to achieve defined project outcomes.
- Undertake initial service user assessments using relevant screening and assessment tools, to identify and respond to those needs appropriately.
- Develop referral pathways and operational links across A Way Out, and other agencies where appropriate, to ensure woman and girls at risk of, or directly affected by exploitation and gendered violence are supported at the earliest opportunity.
- Develop direct advocacy and support to women and girls affected by exploitation and gendered violence, between the ages of 16-26 in the context of supporting child to adult transitions.
- Contribute to A Way Out's outreach services to identify women and girls at risk of/ being exploited due to gendered violence. This will include partaking in weekly evening outreach as part of working hours alongside some weekend work as and when required.
- Performance monitoring objectives of the project while completing necessary reports.
- Complete client and activity risk assessments to ensure the safety of all clients and team members and ensuring health and safety regulations are adhered to alongside safeguarding practices.
- Keep up to date with information relating to best practice along with both national and local policy affecting your project area.
- Work proactively with other local and regional organisations (statutory and voluntary sector) to ensure support packages are comprehensive and integrated and that learning is shared operationally and strategically with key stakeholders.

General terms of reference – In carrying out the above duties the post holder will

- Take responsibility for fulfilling job description and the delivery of a holistic service.
- Take an active role in determining professional development needs and agreeing programmes to meet those needs.
- Participate in appraisal, training and supervision processes.
- Ensure the implementation of all A Way Out policies and procedures.
- Keep abreast of relevant developments, legislation changes and practices and share them with the team ensuring that changes to service delivery are aligned where appropriate.
- Work strictly within the guidelines of the organisation's Safeguarding, Confidentiality, Health and Safety and Professional Boundaries at all times.
- Undertake other duties appropriate to the grade of the post.

This job description is not a definitive list of responsibilities but identifies key components of the role.