

Job Description

Post:	Therapeutic Equine Facilitator
Responsible to:	Project Manager and Lead Facilitator
Hours:	Saturdays 10am-1pm, 2pm-4pm or 10am-4pm (Will consider candidates who can only commit to every other Saturday) Evenings/After School Monday – Friday (Various hours available)
Location:	Rugby, Warwickshire

The job description outlines the objectives and duties of the job for which you are applying. You should check that you feel able to undertake the duties of the job before completing the application form.

Circles Network Summary

Circles Network is a UK wide voluntary organization based in Warwickshire, renowned for building inclusive communities on the foundations of justice, advocacy, empowerment and friendships.

Within the organization there are four specialist areas these include;

- Circles Equine
- Circles Community
- Circles Advocacy
- Circles Academy.

There are a number of projects within each of these four areas that support people of any age who are isolated or at risk of isolation. Circles Network has ground breaking expertise in the development of Circles of Support, independent and collective advocacy, person-centred planning, Equine Facilitated Learning and inclusion into the mainstream of life. Working in highly creative, entrepreneurial styles, we are dynamic and ever more determined to dream, dare and do.

Project Summary

Circles Equine runs a number of Equine Facilitated Learning projects aimed at supporting disabled and disadvantaged children, young people and adults. Through a fusion of fun, education and therapy individuals are provided opportunities to develop and explore relationships, self-worth and emotional resilience through working with horses on the ground. Circles Network facilitators work either on a one to one basis or with groups and provide full day clubs. Our aim is to provide person-centred, fully inclusive and creative equine activities that bring out the best in people.

AIMS OF THE POST

- To assist the management team to carry out the work of the project's and the organisation and to expand on this at a local level.
- To Practice Equine Facilitated Learning - using natural horsemanship techniques combined with a positive and nurturing approach whilst working directly with children, young people and adults.
- To work directly with children, young people, adults and their families who are isolated or at risk of isolation due to disability, disadvantage or long term ill health.
- To support children, young people, adults and their families to be included in the mainstream of community life, increasing friendships, positive life experiences, learning and development opportunities and further plans.
- To work with children and adults in a person centred, non-judgemental way, listening to the child and their families' needs and aspirations. The aim is to identify and value the unique way that each individual communicates and to give time and space to each child and their family to talk about their experiences and wishes.
- To ensure that the ethos of the organisation and its values and beliefs are upheld at all times.

A successful applicant for this post will be required to apply for the Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure at the Enhanced Level.

The Values of Inclusion

All the work carried out by Circles Network is underpinned by a strongly held set of values and beliefs known as the values of inclusion. This philosophy, where all people, regardless of ability, are seen to be citizens of worth, drives us in our mission to support.

- Everyone has a voice and the right to be heard.
- All people have dreams and aspirations.
- All people have capabilities and qualities.
- All people should have power and control over what they do now and in the future.
- The whole community can benefit from embracing diversity.
- All people should have the opportunity to lead ordinary and valued lives.
- All people have the right to live and be part of the community.
- All people need friendships and independent relationships; a natural support network.
- All means All.

ESSENTIAL TASKS and RESPONSIBILITIES

- To fully inform children, their families, friends and associates, using accessible means about the philosophy and practice of Circles Equine.
- To bring a knowledge of issues of equality and to encourage people to develop their thinking and behavior in line with the social model and full inclusion for all individuals regardless of disability or disadvantage.
- To empower those supported by providing a platform through which they can have their voice heard and to actively listen and clarify your understanding, respecting cultural and social differences to communication.
- To document in accessible formats including session notes, and stories of children and young people as they develop, using this information to monitor progress and ensure positive futures are a reality for each child and young person supported.
- To contribute towards individuals care plans ensuring the voice of the individual is reflected throughout.
- To respect confidentiality and GDPR at all times.
- To facilitate the learning of problem solving techniques which enable each child, young person and family member to participate.
- To encourage strong relationships and ensure that fun is central in the life of each child, no matter how severe the degree of impairment or illness.
- To contribute to the communication and planning processes within the Network through meetings, planning groups etc.
- To facilitate equine sessions on a one to one or group basis providing coaching and a platform for learning with a wide range of individuals including; those living with physical disabilities, learning difficulties, Autism, ADHD, emotional, social and mental health needs.

- To work as a team member and to share your gifts, strengths and skills, whilst drawing on the qualities of other colleagues within Circles Network.
- The ability to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends.
- To hold a Full UK Driving License.
- Any other tasks commensurate with the work of the organisation in agreement with your line manager.

Equestrian Duties

- To adhere to health and safety and fire safety policies
- To coach others in horse handling and health and safety around horses.
- To carry out yard and field maintenance duties as required.
- To actively participate in the day to day upkeep of the project facilities and care of the horses.
- To assist with the training and development of the horses and ponies, recognising them as a colleague with their own feelings.
- Always show the equine herd respect and compassion as you work in partnership with them to facilitate EFL.
- To assist with the training of volunteers and developing journals with participants.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person specification describes the qualities that we will be looking for when selecting an applicant for the post. Use the person specification when you are completing the form to highlight your relevant skills and experience.

Essential Criteria

- Excellent experience of working with horses and ponies in an equine centred way.
- Knowledge of what the therapeutic benefits are of working alongside horses or a willingness to learn these skills.
- An interest in Natural Horsemanship and natural training methods
- Experience and skills in working directly with children, young people, adults and their families.
- An understanding of the needs of disabled and disadvantaged children and young people or the willingness to learn these.
- The competence to facilitate individual and group sessions.
- An understanding and commitment to the values of inclusion and equal opportunities.
- A willingness to learn new skills such as developing positive relationships and conflict management.
- An understanding of relevant legislation and practice, in particular health and safety, child protection and data protection and the responsibility relating to your role with regards to reporting and record keeping.
- Ability to communicate with people from varying backgrounds.
- Ability to monitor your work via effective evaluation processes.
- Ability to use word processor, e-mail etc
- Commitment to the ethos of Circles Network and the building of inclusive communities.
- To have a full driver's license.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of working with disabled or disadvantaged children, young people or adults with a commitment to disability equality.
- Demonstrable evidence of relevant qualifications in equine management.
- Demonstrable evidence of relevant qualifications in health and social care, child care, youth work or other relevant areas.
- The knowledge and use of a variety of person centred planning tools.
- A creative, open and innovative approach to your everyday life and work.
- The skills to interact with a variety of people.
- Knowledge of Equine Facilitated Learning.
- Experience of working with disabled or disadvantaged children and young people in a therapeutic setting.
- Knowledge of adverse childhood experiences and how these can be reflected in an individual's behavior in addition to knowledge of strategies and activities which can be shared to support the individual moving forward.
- Experience of supporting children and young people who may present behavior that some may find challenging.
- To hold relevant up to date training in positive behavior management such as Team Teach.
- Ability to drive a horsebox.

