National Development Officer: Gypsy/Traveller Education

Applications are invited for the position of National Development Officer: Gypsy/Traveller Education. This is a twelve month, full-time, fixed-term seconded position. A job-share arrangement will be considered.

A dynamic, enthusiastic individual is sought to take forward this important opportunity to contribute to the development of a sustainable infrastructure of educational services for Gypsy/Traveller families through collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders. The role will support the implementation of Scottish Government’s new guidance on improving educational outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers. A central aim will be to extend the capacity of the Traveller Education Network (TENET) in developing partnerships to support young Gypsy/Travellers and their families at all stages of learning and career-development.

Successful applicants will have professional experience of teaching in the primary, secondary or other education context, including evidence of managing, developing and implementing strategic initiatives with a focus on cultural equity and social justice. Applicants will have a well-established reputation in the field of education, have held a position of professional responsibility and have experience of leading learning. They will have significant knowledge and experience of additional support for learning procedures and engaging families in pupils’ learning. The candidate will also have excellent knowledge of recent developments in Scottish education and recent experience of working with and supporting staff and producing learning resources.

Application Process:

Candidates for this post should:
- Discuss the feasibility of the opportunity with their Line Manager.
- Submit a full CV and application form with a supporting reference from their Line Manager, by email only, to SchoolSecretary.education@ed.ac.uk by the application deadline below.
- Interviews will take place shortly after the closing date.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 15th November by 5pm.
Location: Moray House School of Education, Edinburgh, or negotiable.

Salary: secondment – current salary of substantive employment will apply

Contract Type: Secondment for 12 months

Position Type: Full time

1. Job Details

   Job title: National Development Officer: Gypsy/Traveller Education
   
   School/Support Department: Moray House School of Education
   
   Unit: Institute for Education, Teaching and Leadership.
   
   Line manager: Director of STEP

2. Job Purpose

   The Development Officer’s role is to build on existing, and create new, partnerships between the Gypsy/Traveller community and Local Authorities in order to develop sustainable practices. A national, strategic approach will be central to the work and will include forming regional hubs where Gypsy/Travellers and education stakeholders form democratic planning partnerships. The ambition is that Gypsy/Travellers will assume more responsibility for their own learning and take a lead on how resources are allocated. The candidate will be responsible for facilitating productive dialogue.

   The Development Officer’s role is:

   - To develop a coherent interconnected provision of learning services within and across regional hubs.
   - To strengthen the capacity of hubs to benefit from national strategic initiatives such as the Child Poverty Action Plan.
   - To inspire and facilitate new and innovative models of Gypsy/Traveller education provision including e-learning.
   - To enable a continuum of support for local authority staff learning from ITE to Senior Management Teams including web-based support.

3. Main Responsibilities (approx. % of time)

   1. Design and conduct an audit of existing provision and identify priorities for action and implementation (5%)
   2. Establish an infrastructure of regional partnerships with assigned roles made up of key stakeholders and representatives from all stages of learning that responds to identified regional and local needs. (10%)
   3. Devise, implement and evaluate an operational plan to achieve coherent, manageable and effective models of Gypsy/Traveller education and assessment that are co-created by local authority staff and the Gypsy/Traveller community (10%)
   4. Co-ordinate a programme of training to ensure all service providers have the knowledge and skills to deliver on the programme’s aims. (20%)
5. Design and oversee an effective communication, outreach and engagement strategy, in order to engage learning centres and families in each region (10%)
6. Produce guidance on systems and processes for the collaborative delivery of high quality provision for learning and development across all stages of learning (5%)
7. Oversee the development of resources to support participation in education. (20%)
8. Support the delivery of regional pilot projects. (10%)
9. Record and report progress of developments at key points within the project to the Gypsy/Traveller Regional Hub Steering Group and other stakeholders. (5%)
10. Undertake any other reasonable duties, commensurate with the job title, as may be determined by the line manager (5%)

4. Key Contacts / Relationships

Indicative key contacts include:

- Local authority SMTs
- Scottish Government Officers
- Leaders of CPD related to teacher professional learning
- COSLA and Local Authority personnel
- GTCS personnel
- Moray House staff
- Web/resource design personnel

5. Qualifications and Education

The successful applicant will:

**Essential**
- Have a first degree or postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in Education
- Be a GTCS registered teacher currently working in teaching or other education setting

**Desirable**
- Have a Masters degree or above, and/or hold a promoted position

6. Knowledge, Skills and Experience Needed for the Job

**Essential**
- Current knowledge and understanding of Scottish Government education and related policies
- Knowledge and understanding of cultural equity and social justice in relation to education
- Experience in planning, leading implementation, evaluation and quality assurance of initiatives within education
- Ability to take appropriate initiative, prioritise and meet deadlines
- Experience and demonstrated success in working to improve professional learning
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team and across sectors
- Ability to think critically and contribute to transformative processes in education
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate excellent written and presentational skills
• Good knowledge of school, local authority and the university sectors, particularly in relation to professional learning

Desirable
• Experience of working with Gypsy/Travellers or other marginalised communities.
• Experience of contributions to Local Authority, curriculum or pedagogical developments
• Knowledge of the use of web-based, and digital, media to support learning
• Ability to systematically audit and evaluate data to inform next steps

7. Job Context and any other relevant information

In September the Scottish Government announced increased funding to tackle long lasting inequalities in accessing education by Gypsy/Traveller communities.

This Development Officer’s role is funded by Scottish Government and is designed to enable the successful applicants to make a valuable contribution to contemporary developments in how the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community access education services through local authority and other services.