

Active
Gloucestershire



Role: Community Connector

Hours: Up to 3 days week (22.5 hours), worked flexibly to include occasional evening and weekends where necessary.

Salary: £26-28k (Full Time Equivalent) per annum

Contract Term: 1-year fixed term contract (aim to start October 2025) with possible extension subject to funding and performance.

Annual Leave: 25 days pro-rata plus public holidays, rising by 1 day per year up to a maximum of 30 days pro rata plus public holidays

Based at: Forest Voluntary Action Forum (FVAF) in Cinderford, but travel throughout the district will be required.

Responsible to: FVAF Programme Manager

About Us

Forest Voluntary Action Forum is a support and development agency for voluntary activity and community action in the Forest of Dean. We provide assistance to many of the hundreds of voluntary and community groups in the district who in turn are better able to deliver their work in the local community. Much of our support is in the form of advice, guidance and information as well as advocacy and support for volunteering. As well as this 'core work', we run a number of projects with and for the benefit of local communities.

FVAF believe in the capabilities of communities and spend significant time brokering conversations between residents and decision makers and engaging in meaningful community co-production with an emphasis on supporting neighbourhoods to do what matters to them. Through embracing positive community action, FVAF supports citizens to develop the skills, resiliency, and social capital to live more cohesively with one another - the result of which leads to greater empowerment both individually and collectively in meeting health, wellbeing, and social needs.

This role is part funded by Active Gloucestershire, our county's Active Partnership. For the past 18 months, we've been collaborating closely with Active Gloucestershire on their place-based work in Cinderford. This work focuses on working closely with local organisations and residents on what matters most to them in their community.

Why work for FVAF?

FVAF are passionate about nurturing talented, compassionate, community minded team players. We recognise the value of people far beyond their job title and support all staff and volunteers to utilise their skills and passions during their time with us.

We are committed to ensuring that significant levels of support and training will be provided to the successful candidate.

As an organisation we provide the following:

- ✓ Competitive pay
- ✓ A minimum of 25 days annual leave pro rata, increasing by 1 day for every year served
- ✓ A staff training and development programme with a dedicated budget
- ✓ Remote and flexible working opportunities
- ✓ Permanent contracts wherever possible
- ✓ Up to one week per year to undertake employer supported volunteering
- ✓ A pension scheme
- ✓ Team building days and social gatherings throughout the year

"I have learned more at FVAF than I ever did in any other job or in education. They give me the trust and support to succeed, and I love being part of this amazing team"

Our team passionately deliver our core values through all that they do.



The Role

As our Community Connector you will play a pivotal role in driving forward the Cinderford 'place' work that focuses on reducing inequalities and inactivity in the town. You will build on the themes and relationships already identified, measuring the ripples of that work, and supporting the development of new relationships to build on what's already been achieved.

Additionally, the role will work closely with community-based sports provision (3 local Rugby clubs) to facilitate the co-production of the 'TRY' Blood Pressure Check and Monitor Programme. The project takes an innovative approach to hypertension prevention, identification and intervention, targeting individuals to take ownership of their health, creating sustainable behaviour change, leading to ripples of increased health awareness across peers, families and communities. By collaborating with the local clubs, the project will provide infrastructure, resources, and support to enable each club to co-design its own community engagement and, blood pressure check and management programme.

Main Tasks

- Work closely with Active Gloucestershire and cross-sector organisations that operate locally and across the Forest of Dean.
- Support the development and coordination of convening space for Cinderford Action Groups to come together to collaborate, review progress and track impact
- Facilitate the co-production of the 'TRY' Blood Pressure Monitoring and Reduction programme – using a strengths-based approach to build effective collaborations between local sports clubs and community health professionals.
- Build strong relationships locally with cross-sector organisations to link into physical activity, health and wellbeing work, projects and opportunities locally
- Through a systems based approach, work with local and relevant partnerships and networks that will support to engage local residents into appropriate services and opportunities.
- Gain a local understanding of services and opportunities there are locally that will help residents live more active, healthy and happier lives.
- Support community projects and enable connections and co-production
- Work with Active Gloucestershire to create a sustainable model for the action groups to continue long-term
- Supporting strategic work enabling legacy within Cinderford and the wider Forest of Dean
- Work with the Active Gloucestershire team to capture learning and change locally through the place-based work
- Support to continue to build on Ripple Effect Map that has been created for this work

Job / Person Specification

Forest Voluntary Action Forum considers it to be essential that the post holder has the following skills, knowledge and experience:

Skills

- ✓ Strong communication skills (both verbal and written)
- ✓ The ability to build positive and productive relationships with community organisations, professionals, local people and colleagues
- ✓ The ability to connect the dots and link relevant organisations and work together to achieve outcomes
- ✓ Strong organisational skills
- ✓ A positive approach and ability to generate creative and innovative solutions
- ✓ The ability to inspire and motivate others

- ✓ A flexible approach to work
- ✓ Confident user of a wide array of IT software, including databases and MS Office applications

Knowledge

- ✓ Awareness of place-based working
- ✓ An existing knowledge of the voluntary and community sector including here in the Forest of Dean.

Experience

- ✓ An evidenced passion for the capabilities of communities through the promotion of strength-based approaches such as Asset Based Community Development.
- ✓ Proven success in building effective relationships within organisations and with partners and stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- ✓ Experience of working in with a whole systems approach with cross-sector organisations to achieve outcomes

Qualifications

- ✓ A full driver's license with access to a vehicle is essential.

Don't meet every single requirement? We'd still love to hear from you. We're passionate about building a diverse and inclusive workplace, and we encourage you to apply even if your experience doesn't perfectly match the job description.

Application Process:

- Application deadline: **12:00 noon on Wednesday 20th August 2025**
- Interviews: **1st or 2nd September 2025**
- If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role more, we can arrange an informal chat. Please e-mail projects@fvaf.org.uk to arrange a time.

Additional Information:

FVAF is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults with care and support needs. FVAF expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. For this reason, the successful candidate will be subject to robust recruitment and selection processes, including an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

All duties must be carried out in compliance with the Forest Voluntary Action Forum Equality and Diversity Policy.

All applications should be submitted on an Application Form to Forest Voluntary Action Forum via e-mail to projects@fvaf.org.uk

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
12:00 noon WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST 2025**