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| **Job Description** | |
| **Post Title** | Access to Nature Officer |
| **JE Reference No** | N10231 |
| **Grade** | 10 |
| **Service** | Regeneration, Economy & Growth |
| **Service Area** | Environment - North Pennines AONB Partnership |
| **Reporting to** | Fellfoot Forward Scheme Manager |
| **Location** | Your normal place of work will be Hallbankgate Hub, near Brampton and Stanhope but you may be required to work at any Council workplace within County Durham. Home working is supported and partners in Cumbria offer workspace. |
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| **DBS** | This post **is not** subject to adisclosure. |
| **Flexitime** | This post **is** eligible for flexitime. |
| **Politically restricted** | This post **is not** designated as a politically restricted post in accordance with the requirements of Section 1(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by regulations made from time to time by the Secretary of State. |

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| **Description of role** |

The PLACE Access to Nature Officer will be working alongside staff from the North Pennines AONB Partnership’s Fellfoot Forward scheme to extend the scope of the organisation’s community engagement work, focussed on secondary school-aged children in Carlisle and Eden districts. The PLACE project has been developed by Cumbria Development Education Centre and you will work in partnership with their and partners staff.

The PLACE (Paths to Learning: Active Community Exploration) project will focus on empowering young people as agents of change within their communities- inspiring them to take action through nature-based community projects to enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. It will equip children and young people with the skills, competences and values required to develop a deep connection to place: people, nature, cultural and landscape heritage. This will result in holding a sense of belonging that will build their mental health and wellbeing.

Fellfoot Forward is led by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and delivered by a partnership of local organisations and communities. Through a scheme of projects, Fellfoot Forward will forge creative connections between people and landscape, conserve habitats and key species and celebrate this beautiful area with communities and visitors. The Fellfoot landscape stretches from the Cumbrian fellside of the North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark to the River Eden and runs north from Melmerby to Hallbankgate. Fellfoot Forward is a Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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| **Duties and responsibilities** |

* To work primarily with Secondary schools and youth organisations to recruit young people and to build with them nature-based education sessions, training and collective sharing potentially at a future youth summit
* This would include sense of place (introductory outdoor delivery), wildlife identification walks/ workshops, practical conservation skills and farm visits to gain an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the area (its wildlife and ecology, its farming culture and the practices of High Nature Value and Regenerative farming).
* Delivery of CPD for teachers, youth workers and student leaders, which build confidence and knowledge (CPDs to be in ‘wild places’ away from the classroom)
* Work with John Muir Award and Bright Green Future to support young people through an accreditation scheme.
* Three (per academic year) community (Questing) projects, led by young people, linked with key community members, designing trails/interpretation and experiences that celebrate the natural and cultural qualities of each area as understood by young people
* To attend Advisory Board meetings and, when required, to report on activities to partners at these meetings.
* To recruit and manage volunteers as appropriate
* To ensure appropriate expenditure on elements of the programme within your remit.
* To supervise contractors where they are appointed within the officer’s main areas of responsibility.
* To report, as required, to relevant bodies of the North Pennines AONB Partnership and its partner authorities on issues and action in the North Pennines AONB for which the postholder is taking the lead.
* To help to ensure that action undertaken within the AONB is consistent with and complementary to the purpose of AONB designation/UNESCO Geopark status.
* To undertake other duties as required, consistent with the responsibility level of the post, as directed by the Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager

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| **Organisational responsibilities** |

* **Values and behaviours**

To demonstrate and be a role model for the council’s values and behaviours to promote and encourage positive behaviours, enhancing the quality and integrity of the services we provide.

* **Smarter working, transformation and design principles**

To seek new and innovative ideas to work smarter, irrespective of job role, and to be creative, innovative and empowered. Understand the operational impact of transformational change and service design principles to support new ways of working and to meet customer needs.

* **Communication**

To communicate effectively with our customers, managers, peers and partners and to work collaboratively to provide the best possible public service. Communication between teams, services and partner organisations is imperative in providing the best possible service to our public.

* **Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

To take responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing in accordance with the council’s Health and Safety policy and procedures.

* **Equality and diversity**

To promote a society that gives everyone an equal chance to learn, work and live, free from discrimination and prejudice and ensure our commitment is put into practice. All employees are responsible for eliminating unfair and unlawful discrimination in everything that they do.

* **Confidentiality**

To work in a way that does not divulge personal and/or confidential information and follow the council’s policies and procedures in relation to data protection and security of information.

* **Climate Change**

To contribute to our corporate responsibility in relation to climate change by considering and limiting the carbon impact of activities during the course of your work, wherever possible.

* **Performance management**

To promote a culture whereby performance management is ingrained and the highest of standards and performance are achieved by all. Contribute to the council’s Performance and Development Review processes to ensure continuous learning and improvement and to increase organisational performance.

* **Quality assurance (for applicable posts)**

To set, monitor and evaluate standards at individual, team and service level so that the highest standards of service are delivered and maintained. Use data, where appropriate, to enhance the quality of service provision and support decision making processes.

* **Management and leadership (for applicable posts)**

To provide vision and leadership to inspire and empower all employees so they can reach their full potential and contribute to the council’s values and behaviours. Managers and leaders must engage in personal development to ensure they are equipped to lead transformational change; always searching for better ways to do things differently to meet organisational changes and service priorities.

* **Financial management (for applicable posts)**

To manage a designated budget, ensuring that the service achieves value for money in all circumstances through the monitoring of expenditure and the early identification of any financial irregularity.

*The above is not exhaustive and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post as directed by your manager.*

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| Person specification | | |
|  | Essential | Desirable |
| Qualifications | * Degree or equivalent, in an environment, ecology, historic environment, land management related subject or substantial experience in relevant field | * Qualifications in teaching or youth work or community development. |
| Experience | * Successful working on multi-partner projects relating to learning about natural beauty/heritage. * Considerable experience of working closely with members of local communities, volunteers and contractors on environmental interpretation and/or local history projects. * Developing and managing education and training programmes for a variety of audiences including school children but specifically young people 16-25. * Teaching and/or youth-work experience, particularly in the outdoors. * Organising events and workshops. * IT software packages such as Excel and Word. | * Dealing with a broad range of people, but particularly the North Pennines and Eden Valley communities and their representative organisations. * Direct experience of protected landscapes and their management. * The implementation and monitoring of programmes of work. * Organisation of larger events and festivals (particularly musical or cultural) * Working with tourism businesses. * Leading volunteers in practical outdoor tasks. * Managing contractors delivering community environment and heritage programmes. |
| Skills & Knowledge | * Well-developed skills in environmental and historical interpretation. * Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with people from a wide range of backgrounds and organisations . Ability to articulate and win support for conservation and the integrated management of the AONB. * Ability to develop partnerships and co-operation between organisations and groups. * Ability to undertake work with community groups and local businesses and if required, to represent the AONB Partnership at public and other meetings. * Knowledge of new media and the changing nature of digital interpretation. * Knowledge of natural beauty conservation, nature recovery and rural issues, including those affecting the uplands and protected area management. | * Knowledge of the geological, environmental and cultural history of the North Pennines and the Eden Valley. * Knowledge of the needs of the communities and environment in the North Pennines and Eden Valley. * Knowledge of national and local policy initiatives for rural areas and socio-economic issues facing rural areas and their young people. * A political awareness and a good knowledge of community relations. * Good photography and video skills to support social media work on behalf of the scheme. |
| Personal Qualities | * Articulate, presentable, pleasant and capable of making a positive impact on the area and its communities. * Considerable tact and good negotiating skills. * Ability to work using own initiative, to generate ideas and to motivate others * A highly organised approach to work and a capability to work under pressure of deadlines and a heavy workload. * Ability to develop ideas and present them persuasively. * Self-confidence, reliability and self-reliance and the ability to work without close supervision. * Ability to meet the transport requirements of the post. * Willingness to work outside normal office hours on occasions. Detail any criteria the performance of the post requires. | * A personal commitment to and interest in the North Pennines and Eden Valley * Good general health, presentable, pleasant and capable of making a positive impact on the area and its communities |