**Guidance Notes for applicants**

***Please read before completing your Application Form***

Read the background information and job description carefully; this will help you to decide whether you want to apply for the job and will also give you the information you need to help complete your application form.

Our shortlisting process will be based on the information that you have provided on the Application Form; we will not be able to score you on information which you have not provided, and we cannot make assumptions about what you might have done in relation to our requirements.

Take each of the points on the Person Specification, and set out in the relevant section of the Application Form how you have met this requirement in your previous work – paid or unpaid – and how this relates to the post you are applying for:

* Our scoring system for shortlisting allocates scores of 0-5 for each element of the person specification, based on how you have demonstrated your skills and experience - from 0 where the applicant has failed to meet the criteria as they have not demonstrated the suitable skills / experience required, to 5 where the applicant has fully met the criteria, demonstrating suitable skills and experience with a range of examples.
* In order to be considered for shortlisting, candidates must score a minimum of 2 for each of the essential criteria.
* We operate a guaranteed interview scheme for candidates who consider themselves to have a disability, and who meet the essential criteria. As such, any candidate who declares themselves as having a disability and who scores a minimum of 2 for each of the essential criteria will automatically be shortlisted for interview.
* Remaining candidates will be shortlisted according to ranking of scores. The score required to qualify for interview will depend on the number of roles being appointed to and how highly candidates score overall.

Applications that show how actions have resulted in outcomes will usually score more highly in shortlisting. For example, saying “I have excellent project management skills” will get a lower score than saying “I have good project management skills. An example of this is *xyz project*. The project exceeded our target of delivering training to 20 community groups in 6 months. My role in this was….”

When filling in the form, think about all aspects of your life experiences – not just paid work. For example, your experiences at school or college, as a volunteer, or in your home or leisure activities could all contribute to your ability to show us that you meet items on the Person Specification:

* e.g. In running a home, you can demonstrate a range of organising skills, and budget management.
* Being active in a local club or community group may have given you opportunities to learn skills such as teamwork, and communication.

If you have any further questions about completing the form, please email laura.hynes@actiontogether.org.uk