



JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title - Community-Led Housing Co-Ordinator – Southwest Scotland

Base - Home based, working across SW Scotland, primarily in D&G

Responsible To - CLH Programme Manager

Responsible For - n/a

Starting Salary - £30,000

Pension Contribution - Employer contribution of 6% of salary

Contract Period - Fixed term for three years This post is intended to continue in the longer term but dependent on funding

Probationary Period - Three months

Contract Hours - Full Time. Flexible home working, with regular SOSCH team and project meetings across Southwest Scotland.. Flexible home working, with regular SOSCH team and project meetings across Southwest Scotland.

Given the wide geographical area covered by the post, the post holder will be required to attend meetings across the region and, occasionally, beyond. In addition, meetings will require to be attended out-with normal working hours (for which time off in lieu will be given).

The Organisation

South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) is an award winning Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) that provides support to rural and urban community-led housing across the whole of the South of Scotland. For us, community-led housing is embedded within a wider culture of community ownership of land and assets, underpinned by Scottish Land Reform legislation, and community-led regeneration. We support communities to appraise and understand localised needs and to identify and deliver solutions that promote longer-term community sustainability and resilience. Our work is focused on project delivery and ensuring that outcomes are targeted towards those most in need.

The team provides lifecycle support to communities throughout the planning and delivery of affordable housing and regeneration projects. This support will be tailored to the specific circumstances of individual projects but is likely to include Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, Stakeholder Engagement, Strategic Overview, Community Engagement, Enabling of Wider Project Team, Procurement of Design Team and Consultants, Funding Applications, Business Planning, Project Management, Contractor Procurement, Project Monitoring, Advice on Management and Allocation.



This is an exciting opportunity to become a pivotal part of a small, enthusiastic team and to make a positive impact in communities across Southern Scotland.

<http://www.sosch.org>

Our project work with communities is multi-faceted; we are currently supporting new-build low energy housing, the redevelopment of empty homes, the repurposing of long-term vacant and derelict properties and larger-scale mixed-use community-led regeneration projects. We work closely with partners and stakeholders, including South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Government, Scottish Land Commission and Community Land Scotland. We engaged in partnership and knowledge exchange across Scotland, the UK and Europe.

The organisation has evolved significantly over the past five years in terms of delivery, growth and ambition. The Board of Trustees adopted a new Business Plan in 2022 which is currently under implementation and SOSCH has been in-grant to the Nationwide Foundation since 2018. At this stage, the organisation is supporting a significant pipeline of new projects – many of which are at project development stage.

You will work as part of a small project team, reporting to a newly appointed Community-led Housing Programme Manager and alongside two other Coordinators.

Background to Post

Community-Led Housing Coordinator (SW Scotland) is a post that will be funded in part by Scottish Government and Nationwide Foundation. Recognising that the specific housing needs of rural communities are not always entirely met by traditional housing supply, we seek to appraise the nature of demand (in terms of housing type and tenure), and then to develop appropriate solutions in partnership with local community organisation.

The primary focus of the post is to develop solutions that are community-led, working alongside community organisations (Development Trusts, etc.), and promoting housing in community ownership. The project is currently engaged with a number of communities across the region and our focus is on delivery and community empowerment, promoting increased resilience.

The Scottish Government launched its Rural Housing Fund in April 2016. This fund supports the type of activity described above and is open to applications from, among others, community organisations. SOSCH is currently supporting a number of live applications to the Fund and this work will form a pivotal part of this particular role. In the majority of cases, application to the Rural Housing Fund is being supported in tandem with engagement with the Scottish Land Fund. Our project work will often relate to wider community-led regeneration or Place Planning and can also encompass non-housing elements.



Job Purpose

- Supporting community organisations to identify, develop and deliver upon community-led housing projects that address the specific housing needs of individual communities across SW Scotland; our current project portfolio is entirely in D&G;
- To identify, promote and deliver affordable and sustainable housing solutions to meet housing needs in the rural communities, often alongside other non-housing outcomes;
- To work in partnership with local communities, partners and stakeholders, disseminating experience and good practice;
- To enact a Monitoring and Evaluation framework that can be used to facilitate the continuous improvement of our service and demonstrate the wider outcomes of our work.
- To promote greater awareness and understanding of rural housing issues and community-led housing and contributing to rural housing policy development at a local and national level.

Core Duties

- Managing all stages of several community-led housing projects on a day-to-day basis;
- Taking ownership (in partnership) of ongoing community-led housing projects already being undertaken, whilst seeking to engage other communities;
- Preparing all components required for successful applications to the Rural Housing Fund for both feasibility / project development funding and capital grant (a process very similar to application for Housing Association Grant), whilst also supporting communities through engagement with the Scottish Land Fund;
- Appraisal and analysis of localised needs and demands, including undertaking survey and community engagement, report writing and public engagement;
- Understanding and promoting local housing and strategic housing/planning strategies and policies;
- Business and financial planning in consultation with the wider SOSCH team;
- Maintaining project plans and records for internal and external monitoring and evaluation;
- Engaging with community groups and organisations and key stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle;
- The drawing together and engagement with effective project teams, including professional services (for example architect, engineer, quantity surveyor);
- Prioritising and managing a work programme within the projects.

Promoting Strong Partnerships

- Ensuring the specific and localised interests and needs of communities are considered at every stage in the process of developing sustainable solutions;
- Maintaining and continuing to develop a number of communities already engaged with SOSCH;
- Raising awareness of affordable housing needs and their impact on the social, economic and physical fabric of communities;



- Researching and identifying local housing need – undertaking surveys and analysis – on behalf of specific communities;
- Building and maintaining strong partnerships and networks across a broad range of diverse partners and stakeholders involved in the delivery and promotion of affordable housing solutions, both at a local and national level;
- Promoting sustainable and innovative solutions to increase affordable housing supply, particularly relative to funding and land supply;
- Appraising and identifying potential sites, empty and redundant buildings and other opportunities and undertaking appraisals to assess their suitability for sustainable housing solutions;
- Supporting community organisations through all aspects of project development and costing;
- Ongoing liaison with appropriate funders and development partners.

Operational Duties

- Working closely with colleagues to ensure cohesion and effective delivery;
- Sharing experience with other community-led housing organisations and key stakeholders, particularly relative to Scottish Government drivers;
- Responding to requests for advice and guidance from members of the public, community organisations and stakeholders;
- Regularly reporting of progress to the Chief Executive/CLH Programme Manager and – where appropriate - the provision of reports and presentations to the Board of Directors;
- Producing information for publication through social and print media, briefings and other forms of communication;
- Contributing to SOSCH Communications and PR, including website and social media – updating information on progress with the programme of work, highlighting notable achievements and good practice and developing community support resources;
- Assisting in the organisation of and attending appropriate events;
- Engaging with appropriate funders with a view to securing project funding to extend the role, and therefore this post, beyond the currently funded period.

Employer related Duties

- The application of a regular process of performance monitoring and communication;
- Ensuring the organisation’s Equal Opportunities Policy and Safeguarding Policy is followed through in practice in the work of the post-holder;
- Attending and participating in appropriate internal meetings of the organisation;
- Working cooperatively with other staff members and stakeholders;
- Being particularly aware and responsive to the needs of the organisation’s Trustee Directors and member organisations where appropriate;
- Complying with the monitoring and recording requirements of the organisation for the purposes of accountability.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Possession of a Degree is desirable in a relevant discipline, although demonstrable relevant work experience will alternatively be taken into account.
- If not in possession of a degree level qualification, applicants should be able to demonstrate at least 2 years' relevant experience.
- In the circumstance of a prospective candidate being a recent graduate in receipt of a degree in a relevant discipline, this may also be taken into account.
- Must have a full and valid driving licence, with access to a car.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Prospective candidates should preferably be able to demonstrate a working knowledge and experience of one or more the following, but noting that the ability to support the delivery or new or refurbished affordable homes is critical to the post at this time:

- Community-led housing;
- Community-led regeneration, development, empowerment;
- Project management and project delivery;
- Build environment / place planning;
- Rural and urban housing issues;
- Business Planning;
- Affordable Housing sector, in particular relevant to Development;
- Housing legislation and/or planning;
- Community development, community engagement, community-led regeneration, land reform;
- Experience in the private/public housing sector but experience gained within the planning, surveying, property management or community development sectors is also relevant;
- Housing development, delivery and funding, in particular relative to affordable housing.

SKILLS

- Excellent verbal and written communication, and Report writing;
- Confident presentation and public speaking skills;
- Good general computing ability with competence in Microsoft Office 365 and Teams;
- Independent management of workload around a programme of multiple projects;
- Strong relationship management skills.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Strong team player – especially relative to Job-Share requirements of this role;
- Ability to relate well to a diverse range of occupations and organisations;
- Willingness to work flexible working hours, including evenings and weekends, according to the exigencies of the workload;
- Given the nature of the role, access to a car is likely to be beneficial, although not a requirement of the post;
- Ability to travel throughout SOSCH's geographical area of operation and, occasionally, further afield (travel expenses will be reimbursed);
- Strong commitment to the aims and objectives of SOSCH.