

## **Blue Mentor Job Description**

**Job Title:** Blue Mentor

**Directly responsible to:** Mersey Rivers Trust Senior Project Manager

**Pay range:** £28,000 – £30,000 FTE plus £20 per month phone allowance

**Contract:** 0.5 part time – 3-year fixed term contract

**Location:** Home-based, working across the Mersey Catchment, from the edge of the Pennines to the coast. Occasional travel out of area to funder events.

**Working hours:** 18.75 hours per week, with the opportunity for flexible working. Regular evening and weekend working.

### **About The Ernest Cook Trust and the Blue Influencers Scheme:**

The mission of the Blue Influencers Scheme is to assist young people (target age 10-14 year olds) from coastal, river, and estuarine communities to create deep, lasting and meaningful connections with the natural environment and with their local communities and to embed a culture where youth social action becomes the norm.

This Blue Mentor post within Mersey Rivers Trust is funded by The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill Fund.

The Blue Influencers Scheme is a match-funded programme for environmental youth social action, funded by The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill Fund. The #iwill Fund is made possible thanks to £66million joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities.

The Ernest Cook Trust is acting as a match funder and awarding grants on behalf of the #iwill Fund. Our vision at The Ernest Cook Trust is for an environmentally engaged society with increased connections to nature.

### **Purpose of the role:**

- Build a network of organisations, charities, groups and institutions in your area that support young people and are looking to enable environmental youth social action
- Engage with 60 young people (target age 10-14 year olds) per year of the project or a total of 180 young people across three years
- Facilitate Blue Influencers' learning around river, estuarine and coastal environmental issues, and other environmental issues affecting their communities
- Support the Blue Influencer groups in the conception, planning, delivery and continuation of youth-led environmental social action projects of their choosing, to the benefit and involvement of their local community and to the benefit of the natural world
- Actively connect Blue Influencer groups with other local organisations to embed projects in local communities and facilitate intergenerational and cross-cultural projects

- Support local networks in communicating and embedding environmental change beyond the life of the projects
- Be an active member of regional and national network of Blue Mentors Blue Influencers Scheme

### **Role responsibilities and tasks:**

#### *Supporting Blue Influencers to deliver inspiring projects*

- Identify Blue Influencers from a diverse range of the local community via connections with schools, youth groups or other groups specifically targeting areas of disadvantage:
  - Neighbourhoods high on the Multiple Deprivation Indices
  - Schools with high levels of Free School Meals/Pupil Premium
  - Pupils at risk of exclusion
  - Young people from the LGBTQ+ community
  - Minoritised ethnic groups
  - Young carers
  - Refugees and asylum seekers
  - Children with adverse childhood experiences
  - Looked After Children
  - SEND young people
- Facilitate the creation of Blue Influencers groups providing the support, encouragement and advice where required
- Enable the groups to conceive youth-led environmental youth social action projects with a clear plan for funding, delivery and evaluation
- Support the groups in reaching out to community organisations to work with them on their projects to ensure projects are embedded in the local community and create a sense of connection to place
- Help Blue Influencers share their youth-led projects via social and other media to engage their community, build momentum and share their successes
- Ensure youth-led social action projects meet #iwill's six principles of quality youth social action ie youth-led, challenging, socially impactful, progressive, embedded and reflective

#### *Creating a network of community partners*

- Identify local organisations that work with and support young people and those that are actively looking to work with more young people
- Create opportunities for Blue Influencers to build their own community networks
- Act as a link between Blue Influencers groups and community partners to build ongoing support for projects and groups

#### *Evaluating, communicating and sharing the project outcomes*

- Ensure evaluation is embedded into each Blue Influencers project using qualitative and quantitative evaluation tools provided by the Trust and the #iwill Fund
- Report on project outcomes and evaluation data using reporting methods provided by The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill Fund
- Work with The Ernest Cook Trust's Programme Manager to ensure projects meet funding criteria and are administered in line with due diligence guidance
- Actively communicate the work of the Blue Influencers groups both regionally and nationally through the wider project network and social media

*Build local and regional momentum for environmental action*

- Share best practice and lessons learnt with the wider network of Blue Mentors
- Act as an ambassador for youth social action and youth-led work for your Host Organisation including encouraging senior leadership to sign up to the #iwill Power of Youth charter and, where possible, implementing youth-led decision making in other areas of your organisation's work
- Support Blue Influencers to continue environmental action beyond their initial project, identifying further funding, partners or opportunities
- Where possible, link with other Blue Mentors at a regional level to create a network of influencers and mentors
- Attend national training and networking events (in-person and online) organised by The Ernest Cook Trust to further develop professional skills that expand the range and impact of local activity

**Personal Specifications:**

**Knowledge**

- Good knowledge of the local community and of local youth provision
- Good understanding of health and safety practices in an outdoor setting
- Good knowledge of youth engagement techniques, working in a youth-led way or youth work principles
- Knowledge of blue and green environmental sector

**Skills and Experience**

- Facilitating groups of young people
- Working in youth voice, youth leadership or youth empowerment contexts
- Organising outdoor visits and resources
- Writing risk assessments and safety procedure documents
- Experience evaluating learning experiences and outcomes
- Experience in budget management or grant applications
- Experience in managing projects for community and environmental benefit
- Good IT skills including Microsoft programmes, databases and social media

**Qualifications**

- Outdoor first aid - minimum 16hrs (training provided)
- Youth leader, coaching or mentoring or equivalent experience

- *Desirable:* background in environmental engagement/communication

### **General**

- Satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure
- Sympathy with the aims and values of The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill Fund
- Access to a car with insurance for business use

### **Term and Conditions**

*The following terms and conditions are typically offered to Mersey Rivers Trust staff and are set out as a guide only. Terms and conditions may vary according to circumstances and this summary does not form part of any subsequent employment*

**Contract duration:** 3 years

**Annual leave:** 28 days annual leave (including 3 day Christmas shutdown) pro rata plus bank holidays.

**Time off in lieu:** The Trust operates a time off in-lieu system for work at weekends, evenings or bank holidays. We do not pay overtime or double time.

**Location:** Home-Based. Some working may be required from time to time in our offices in Manchester. The work will include home-based computer / planning activities, alongside working across the Mersey catchment area, both indoors (e.g. in community spaces) and outdoors.

**Equipment:** A laptop will be supplied and a monthly phone allowance of £20 will be paid. Corporate clothing and PPE as required will be provided.

**Travel expenses:** travel expenses will be paid for all work-related travel within the Mersey catchment (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire plus small areas of Lancashire (parts of West Lancashire and Rossendale districts) and part of the High Peak district of Derbyshire. Staff living outside the catchment area will need to cover their own travel costs from their home to the catchment boundary. Costs of national travel will be funded from a member of staff's home base.