

Youth Worker (casual worker)

Reporting to: Senior Youth Worker

Salary: £12 per hour (varies depending on Level of Youth Work qualification)

Hours: Part time

Location: London, W10

Are you a charismatic and proactive individual with a proven track record of successful working with children and young people?

Are you looking to be a part of a dynamic team and youth centre providing a safe, fun and welcoming environment for young people? To create opportunities for self-development and encourage them to experience and participate in new activities and ideas?

If so, The Avenues Youth Project is looking for a part-time youth worker for a range of our projects.

About The Avenues Youth Project

As one of London's leading youth clubs, our work is challenging but fun and very rewarding.

For over 40 years The Avenues Youth Project has provided a safe space for young people aged 8 to 18 to play, socialise, acquire and develop skills and receive advice and motivation.

In an area of North Westminster with plenty of social challenges, The Avenues is seen as a beacon organisation, hugely valued by our community and widely respected in the youth sector.

In April 2021, we were awarded a Gold Level London Youth Quality Mark, a quality assurance scheme, a programme recognised by City and Guilds.

Our team is professional, hard-working and great fun to work with. Each one of us is passionate about giving every child and young person the opportunity and support to make the most of their future, regardless of their background, and we apply the same principle to those who work at The Avenues.

The Avenues Youth Project in W10 was established in 1979. Our mission is to support young people who might not otherwise get the opportunity to flourish. The service currently operates 6 days a week, with much scope to develop new programmes. We offer a range of activities from Sports, Cooking, Music, Art and much more, tailored to the needs and ambitions of our young members. In addition, we run programmes during school holidays through the day and into the evenings. The Avenues Youth Project offers a vital resource for the local community, providing free opportunities in a safe, attractive environment for young people to develop educationally, socially and personally through an exciting and wide range of sport, creative arts and practical skills.

About this exciting opportunity

We are looking to recruit an experienced and passionate Youth Worker with an established track record to support our youth engagement participation activities.

The main responsibility of the Youth Worker is to assist the Senior Youth Worker and Deputy Senior Youth Worker in developing and providing a wide range of activities and informal educational opportunities to children and young people attending the provision at the Avenues Youth Project.

We have a number of projects within our programme for young people between the ages of 8 to 18 years old.

Our After-School Club is a programme for Junior members aged between 8 to 13 years old. There are two groups within this session, the Zone for 8-10-year olds and Secondary Zone for 11-13-year olds. Within this club there are a range of activities available such as arts and crafts, radio presenting, cooking, sports and recording studio.

On Tuesdays, we have our Tuesday Girls Hub which is for young girls between the ages of 11-18 years old. The activities include art and design, dance, cooking, health and wellbeing workshops and quiet study. This session requires female only workers.

Freestyle Fridays is a Seniors only session for young people between 13 and 18 years old. It is an action-packed Friday evening session consisting of art and design, music studio, DJing, radio station, football skills, cooking club and a games room.

Saturday Seniors is an extension of Freestyle Fridays offering another evening for Seniors between the ages of 13-18 years. Whilst running similar activities to Friday Seniors, Saturday Seniors also brings a whole other vibe.

Our Sporty Saturdays' session is centred around improving young people's fitness and having fun on a Saturday afternoon at The Avenues. This programme is for young people between the ages of 11 and 15. Activities range from sports nutrition, games and circuits to football and judo club.

Key responsibilities:

- Prioritise working alongside the young people in the creative planning of activities. Providing a clear structure and all necessary support for young people to make healthy and positive choices.
- Provide activities which will enable young people to feel empowered in the following areas of their lives, emotional, mental and physical health and group relationships.
- To develop and maintain positive relationships with young people, by using the art of conversation and encouraging participation and involvement in the planned programme.
- To be part of a team of workers that is able to identify the formal and informal educational, social, cultural and recreational needs of the young people and plan a programme of positive interventions and innovation, that enhances the knowledge, awareness and the personal development of the young people.
- To develop relationships with young people that allows the development of one to one support recognising the different needs and starting points of the young people. To listen to children, identify their needs and respond appropriately within set boundaries.
- To communicate effectively and promote positive relationships with children and young people, carers, staff, volunteers and other users of Avenues venue.
- To inform management of any personal concerns relating to the session, as well being able to identify the personal needs of the young people.
- To support young people in evaluating youth work activities and identifying the impact of youth work in their personal development. To run activities and workshops in full consultation with both children concerned and the Senior Youth Worker, and to share with them overall responsibility for the provision of an informal social education programme, which will include special projects, discussions, and activities.

- To attend regular supervision, team and any other appropriate meetings as directed by the Senior Youth Worker.
- To ensure the quality of all work through engagement in an ongoing process of planning, recording and evaluation. Working with the MEAL officer to ensure that all data is collected.
- To work collaboratively with funders, partners and supporters of The Avenues Youth Project.
- To adhere to Avenues' safeguarding policies and procedures to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people.

Person specification

You will have:

- Similar experience in a Youth Worker or Support Worker role
- Level 2 or above qualification in Youth Work (desirable)
- Experience working directly with vulnerable children and young people (desirable)
- Experience of delivering activities within a youth base/support setting using creative ways to consistently engage young people
- Proven track record in delivering similar service
- Knowledge and understanding of risk assessments and safety plans for young people
- The ability to work with community organisations, children and young people including responding to concerns and complaints
- Strong planning, time-management and organisational skills
- The ability to work well as part of a team as well as working independently
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- The ability to motivate and support young people to engage in positive activity
- A commitment to the social ethos of the organisation and an ability to relate to young people.
- Strong understanding on the context and challenges facing vulnerable children and families
- Willingness to take part in a range of activities depending on the child's interests
- Flexibility in working hours

The Avenues is an evolving organisation and therefore changes to the employee's duties may be necessary from time to time. The Job Description is not intended to be inflexible or a finite list of tasks and maybe varied from time to time after consultation/discussion with the post holder.

How to apply:

If you are passionate about working with young people, please send us your CV and a cover letter explaining why the role interests you and how you meet the person specification.

Send your application to iwanttowork@avenues.org.uk. We are looking for successful candidates to start as soon as possible, therefore applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and interviews scheduled accordingly.

Please note that The Avenues Youth Project is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and therefore our recruitment process for this post will include an enhanced DBS check.