January 2025

Dear Applicant,

# Re: VCFSE Community Research Engagement Officer

Thank you very much for your enquiry about the above post. Please find attached an application pack consisting of:

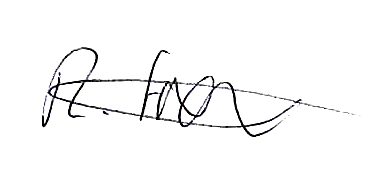
* Job Description and Person Specification
* About Warwickshire CAVA
* What We Can Offer You
* Guidance notes for completing the application form
* The personal details form
* An equal opportunities monitoring form
* The main application form.

## Completed applications may be returned via email to [recruitment@wcava.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@wcava.org.uk) or posted to Warwickshire CAVA’s Warwick District office as detailed on the final page of the application form.

## 

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca French, Assoc CIPD

HR Officer

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Post Title: VCFSE Community Research Engagement Officer – Research Engagement Network (REN)

Responsible To: Health and Wellbeing Manager

Location: Hybrid – Home/Office Hybrid, with ability to travel across Coventry and Warwickshire

Hours: 16 hours per week

Duration: Fixed term post to end of June 2025

Key Partners: REN Working and Steering Groups (e.g. CWPT, Coventry University, UHCW, VCFSE)

**Job Purpose:**

The purpose of this role is to provide operational support to CAVA’s Health and Wellbeing Manager to support the delivery of the community engagement aspect of the REN Workplan which is identified through the REN Working/Steering Group. The Coventry and Warwickshire REN is currently funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and aims to increase opportunities and inclusivity for people (particularly from underserved communities) to take part in research, to tackle health inequalities, and identify ways for researchers to improve the health and wellbeing of people across Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System.

The post holder will be responsible for supporting Working and Steering Group meetings, attending REN events on behalf of CAVA and taking a proactive role in gathering examples of good practice and sharing outcomes and impact with stakeholders. This role will support engagement with communities throughout Coventry and Warwickshire by supporting delivery of in-person engagement events and support the recruitment of, and support related to, Volunteer Community Research Champions who play a vital and central role within this scope of work.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

* Support organisation and delivery of in-person engagement events for the REN work
* Support the REN Working and Steering Groups with communications and marketing activities with various stakeholders (including with: VCFSEs; potential and existing volunteer Community Research Champions; updates to funders; and for various communication channels of the ICS)
* Support gathering of examples of good practice and presenting these case studies in various formats
* Support the team with gathering intelligence, and liaising with VCFSEs about capturing and sharing in an Engagements and Insights Atlas the research opportunities and learnings from across Coventry and Warwickshire
* Champion VCFSEs involvement in using their knowledge and understanding of issues related to addressing inequalities and under-representation, and improving health
* Support the REN with writing monitoring reports
* Circulate relevant material and agendas and take notes from virtual and in-person meetings
* Support the REN with the recruitment, on-going support, training, and organisation of virtual and in-person events for volunteer Community Research Champions
* Attend relevant meetings (in-person and virtually, as appropriate)

**General**

* Participate in individual supervision sessions with your line manager.
* Attend and contribute to relevant CAVA meetings.
* Undertake relevant training agreed with the line manager.
* Ensure that under-represented groups have access to CAVA services offered by the post.
* Comply with CAVA’s work programme, policies and procedures.
* Partake in occasional CAVA events including AGMs and Away Days.
* Undertake additional duties occasionally, commensurate with the grading of this post.

The nature of tasks may vary from time to time but within the levels of responsibility of the post.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION – VCFSE COMMUNITY RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (REN)**

***The successful candidate will need to demonstrate:***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CRITERIA** | **E or D =**  **Essential or Desirable** | Assessed:  A = Application form  I = Interview  T = Test at Interview | | | |
| **WORK EXPERIENCE** |  | **A** | | **I** | **T** |
| Providing administrative functions for a group or team | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Recording, collating and the processing of information | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Dealing with telephone, email and face to face enquiries | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Engaging with a wide range of people | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Monitoring and reporting systems (e.g. recording outputs and outcomes to reflect milestone achievements in excel spreadsheets, report writing, case studies, etc.) | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience planning meetings and events | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience of delivering an event | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience of co-ordinating on-going support for volunteers | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience of working with the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience of working with or supporting communities | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Experience of working with other partners of the Integrated Care System, such as health or academia | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Previous experience in a similar role | D | √ | | √ |  |
| **QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE** | | | | | |
| Knowledge and proficient use of Microsoft 365 (Teams, Outlook, Word, and Excel) | E | √ | √ | |  |
| Understanding of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and a commitment to being proactive around inequality | E | √ | √ | |  |
| Knowledge of the Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprise Sector | D | √ | √ | |  |
| Knowledge, understanding, and interest in issues of addressing inequalities and under-representation, and improving health | D | √ | √ | |  |
| Qualifications relevant to an admin role | D | √ | √ | |  |
| **SKILLS AND ABILITIES** | | | | | |
| Ability to work on own initiative and work as part of a team | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Strong organisational skills and the ability to plan, prioritise, complete tasks on schedule and manage time effectively | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Ability to keep accurate and clear records | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Good interpersonal skills required to work with a wide range of individuals, organisations and to respond to enquiries | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Good verbal and written communication skills | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Ability to coordinate and deliver successful events for multiple stakeholders | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Flexibility to undertake occasional work out of normal office hours | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Ability to travel across Coventry and Warwickshire | E | √ | | √ |  |
| Ability to relate to a diverse range of people | D | √ | | √ |  |
| Minute taking and meeting admin | D | √ | | √ |  |

About CAVA

CAVA is the local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Infrastructure Organisation for Warwickshire and Solihull, providing vital support to the volunteers, groups, organisations, social enterprises and charities who are working to strengthen all of our communities.

Every year our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers help lever in significant investment into the area. In 2020/21 the collective value of funding secured for VCSE sector and volunteering opportunities accessed was worth just under £5m to the local economies of Warwickshire and Solihull.

We are committed to providing all of our services locally and accessibly. Whether a group or individual need support accessing volunteering opportunities, developing a community group, accessing funding or strengthening governance, we have a local office and dedicated team within easy access.

During the recent pandemic, CAVA played a significant role in delivering Covid support projects within the local community such as Targeted Testing and Vaccination Programme volunteering projects.

CAVA has recently successfully tendered for the Warwickshire County Council Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Support Service contract for 3 years from 1st April 2022. The Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Infrastructure Support contract has also been extended for a further two years from 1st April 2022.

Further details about CAVA can be found on our website <https://www.wcava.org.uk/>

What our staff say about working at CAVA:

*“Being part of a team who work well together and are supportive of each other professionally and personally. Also varied nature of my role and great work/life balance. I also really appreciate the good holiday allowance, sickness terms etc.”*

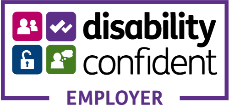
*“The variety of the job, the office environment, good team working and opportunities for development I also appreciate the opportunities I have to be creative in terms of being able to suggest new ideas/projects etc.”*

*I love the vibrant environment of working with people who are a passionate about the sector as I am. I always feel like I am treated as a 'whole person' not just an employee. I always do and always have loved worked for WCAVA. Teamwork is always positively encouraged and respected and as such, 'We' make a very strong team”*

*“Having worked for several organisations over the years, WCAVA is by far the best employer I have worked for”*

*“The atmosphere in the organisation - one which is understanding, flexible, adaptive, inclusive, and interested in people (both its' customers/clients, and employees and volunteers) - makes working for WCAVA a joy and a privilege”*

<http://www.wcava.org.uk/reports-and-publications>



#### What We Can Offer You

The following are just some of the benefits that CAVA offers its employees:

**Annual Leave –** 26 days plus bank holidays plus an extra day for each completed holiday year of service to a maximum of 5 additional days after five holiday years of service.

**Employee Development –** Active encouragement not only to assist performance in the current role but also for the benefit of personal development.

**Flexible Working –** A range of options e.g. Term time working – available for all employees.

**Health and Well Being Initiative –** Annual health & wellbeing day and regular health promotion emails and blogs.

**Pension –** Minimum 5% employee contribution and 3% employer contribution, with an ethical investment policy option.

**Sick Leave and Pay –** WCAVA sick pay and leave entitlement ranges from 1 week full pay and 1 week half pay during probation to 8 weeks full pay and 8 weeks half pay for employees with over two years’ service.

**Unpaid Leave –** In addition to paid leave for example to accommodate special family trips or to assist with childcare.

**Compassionate Leave –** Paid leave of absence up to a maximum of 10 days for compassionate reasons.

**Dependent Care Leave –** Paid leave of absence up to 3 days per occasion and up to 10 days in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the CEO.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

**To have the best chance of success:**

* Tailor your application of the job advertised focusing on the **PERSON SPECIFICATION**.
* Explain how you meet each of the criteria, by providing information about and examples of your skills and experience gained. This may be in paid employment, as a volunteer or within your personal capacity.
* Answer each point in detail – **the recruitment panel cannot guess or make assumptions**. For example, it is not enough to say `I am well organised’ – you need to explain how you organise yourself.
* Remember that the short listing panel are seeking to appoint the applicant who best meets the criteria specified in the person specification in accordance with equal opportunities

**Please do not send a CV or an additional letter, as it will not be considered when short listing takes places.**

**Please write clearly and concisely, using black ink or type.**

# Equal Opportunities

WCAVA is committed to being an Equal Opportunities employer, therefore, please do not add your name to any part of the main application form. The short-listing panel will not see the information provided by you on the personal details and the monitoring forms.



**VACANCY APPLIED FOR: VCFSE Community Research Engagement Officer**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal Details Form**  **NB: PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLACK INK OR TYPESCRIPT.** | | | | | |
| Surname(s): |  | | | | |
| Forename(s): |  | | | | |
| Home Address: |  | | | | |
| Post Code: |  | | | | |
| Home Tel. No. |  | Mobile Tel. No | |  | |
| Work Tel. No. |  | May we contact you there? | | | Yes  No |
| Email Address: |  | | | | |
| National Insurance No. |  | | | | |
| We are obliged under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act, 2006 to verify that all candidates are entitled to work in the UK. Are you entitled to work in the UK?  Yes  No  (Original documentation confirming your entitlement to work in the UK will be required) | | | | | |
| **References**  Please give below the names and addresses of two referees who have known you for a minimum of six months, one of whom should be your present or most recent employer.  References will be taken up for all shortlisted applicants, ideally, prior to interview. | | | | | |
| **First Referee:**  Professional  Personal | | | **Second Referee:**  Professional  Personal | | |
| Name: | | | Name: | | |
| Position held: | | | Position held: | | |
| Address: | | | Address: | | |
| Email Address: | | | Email Address: | | |
| Can WCAVA contact your first referee  Prior to interview? Yes No  Prior to offer? Yes No | | | Can WCAVA contact your second referee  Prior to interview? Yes No  Prior to offer? Yes No | | |
| **Declaration**  I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information given throughout this form is correct and truthful:  Signed:       Date: | | | | | |

# VACANCY APPLIED FOR: VCFSE Community Research Engagement Officer

# Monitoring Form

WCAVA is committed to being an Equal Opportunities organisation and would like to monitor the effectiveness of its Equal Opportunities Policy in the recruitment and employment of staff. We would find it helpful to receive some additional information from you to ensure we are not discriminating under the Equality Act 2010. This form will be separated from your main application form on arrival and your name and address will not be seen by the selection panel.

All of the information collected in the main part of the application form is necessary and relevant to the performance of the job applied for. We will use the information provided by you on this form, by the referees you have noted, and the educational institutions with whom we may undertake to verify your qualifications with, for recruitment purposes only. CAVA will treat all personal information with the utmost confidentiality and in line with current data protection legislation. We rely on the lawful basis under Article 9 (2) (b) that processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests of the employer regarding the information provided in both parts of these forms.

Should you be successful in your application, the information provided, and further information which will be gathered at the relevant time, will be subsequently used for the administration of your employment. . If you are unsuccessful the information will be held securely and destroyed after a period of 12 months as this may be required in relation to any legal challenge which may be made regarding our recruitment practices.

For more information on how we use the information you have provided, please see our privacy notice – <http://www.wcava.org.uk/privacy-policy>

**Gender**

Male Female Intersex Non-binary Prefer not to say If you prefer to use your own term, please specify here

**Disability**

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition?

Yes No Prefer not to say

What is the effect or impact of your disability or health condition on your ability to give your best at work?

The information in this form is for monitoring purposes only. If you believe you need a ‘reasonable adjustment’ please discuss this with the manager running the recruitment process

**What is your ethnicity?**

Ethnic origin is not about nationality, place of birth or citizenship. It is about the group to which you perceive you belong. Please tick the appropriate box

**White**

English Welsh Scottish Northern Irish Irish British Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Prefer not to say

Any other white background, please specify:

**Mixed/multiple ethnic groups**

White and Black Caribbean White and Black African White and Asian Prefer not to say

Any other mixed background, please specify:

**Asian/Asian British**

Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Chinese Prefer not to say

Any other Asian background, please specify:

**Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British**

African Caribbean Prefer not to say

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please specify:

**Other ethnic group**

Arab Prefer not to say

Any other ethnic group, please specify:

**What is your religion or belief?**

No religion or belief Buddhist Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim Sikh Prefer not to say

If other religion or belief, please specify:

**Age**

16-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65+

Prefer not to say

**What is your sexual orientation?**

Heterosexual Gay Lesbian Bisexual Prefer not to say

If you prefer to use your own term, please specify here:

**Where did you see this post advertised?**

WCAVA locality office window WCAVA Website Direct contact from WCAVA Facebook

Twitter Linkedin Indeed WMJobs  Charity Jobs Other (please specify)

**Any comments on the pack/process as a whole – what did you like / dislike?**

Thank you for your comments – you will help us to improve our future application process.

By providing the information requested on this form, you are giving your consent that it may be processed and handled under the Principles of Data Protection as detailed in the Data Protection Act 1998, the General Data Protection Regulations (EU 2016/679) (UK GDPR) and any subsequent legislation as appropriate for the purposes of Equal Opportunities monitoring.

## Our Privacy Policy – <http://www.wcava.org.uk/privacy-policy>

## Sensitive Personal Data Consent Form

WCAVA must obtain consent to hold and use personal information about individuals that could be considered sensitive such as age, racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious belief, trade union membership, physical or mental health condition, sexual life. The Data Protection Act prohibits the processing of sensitive data except in specified circumstances for example equal opportunities monitoring, It is only in this sensitive area that WCAVA wishes to monitor in order to assess the effectiveness of its equal opportunity policy and reduce the possibility of discrimination occurring.

Please sign below to give your consent:

I understand that this information will be used only for the purpose set out above and my consent is conditional upon WCAVA complying with the obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998, the General Data Protection Regulations (EU 2016/679) and any subsequent legislation as appropriate.

Signed:

Name: (BLOCK CAPITALS)       Date:

**MAIN APPLICATION FORM**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND EMAIL TO [recruitment@wcava.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@wcava.org.uk)

WE **DO NOT** CONSIDER CVs.

**1.EDUCATION AND TRAINING (Sight of certificates may be required before appointment)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School / College /**  **University** | **Qualifications** | **Grade** |
|  |  |  |

**2. PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL OR MANAGEMENT QUALIFICATIONS**

**(Sight of certificates may be required before appointment)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Professional/Technical/**  **Management Qualifications** | **Course Details** |
|  |  |
| **Membership of any Professional/Technical Associations – Please state level of membership** | |

**3. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Please give details of any training and development courses or non-qualification courses that support your application. Include any on the job training as well as formal courses.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title of Training Programme or Course** | **Duration of Course** |
|  |  |

**4. PRESENT EMPLOYMENT**

|  |
| --- |
| Name of Present Employer:    Address of Present Employer:  Job Title:  Date of Appointment: |
| Brief details of current duties and responsibilities: |

**5. PAST EMPLOYMENT (MOST RECENT FIRST)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Employer | Position | Dates  From & to |
|  |  |  |

**6. GAPS IN EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING**

Please indicate and explain any gaps since leaving secondary education.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dates | Reason |
|  |  |

**7. PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Please use this section to explain how you meet the requirements of the Job Description and Person Specification. If you are or have been involved in voluntary/unpaid activities, please also include this information in support of your application. Attach and label any additional sheets used.

1. Experience

**B. Knowledge**

**C. Skills**

**D. Personal Attributes**

8. OTHER INFORMATION

|  |
| --- |
| Do you hold a current driving licence? YES NO  If so, please detail what type, for example ‘full’, ‘provisional’, etc    If required, are you prepared to use your own transport for work purposes? YES NO |

**9. DECLARATION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS**

If shortlisted for interview, you will be required to complete a form providing details of any criminal convictions as this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Please email the completed application form to [recruitment@wcava.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@wcava.org.uk) but should you wish to return it by post, please mark the envelope:

“Private & Confidential – VCFSE Community Research Engagement OfficerJob Application”

Rebecca French, Assoc CIPD

HR Officer

WCAVA

Warwick District Office

4 & 6 Clemens Street

Leamington Spa

CV31 2DL

If you choose to return the completed application form by post please email HR on the above email address to inform them.