



## **Children and Young People's Project Worker**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Children & Young People's Project Worker post. We recognise that a job description cannot give you all of the information you may wish to know and so this document aims to give you some background information about Sight Support Derbyshire and about the Children & Young Peoples' services.

### **About Sight Support Derbyshire (SSD)**

Sight Support Derbyshire is the only Derbyshire based sight loss charity, providing a range of services to visually impaired people. As well as our own services, we provide services on contract to Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group and to the County Council. Our skilled and experienced staff and volunteers pride themselves on the high quality services that we have provided for over 100 years throughout Derbyshire. Over this time, we have learned a lot about the needs of people living with sight loss and how services help in reducing isolation and promoting independence.

SSD is a Registered Charity and we rely on fundraising for over half of our total income. We have a small but dedicated fundraising team who work with individuals as well as local and national groups to raise our money.

We are a team of twenty staff working from our main office in Derby, our sub-office in Chesterfield and we have staff based in the two main hospitals in Derby and Chesterfield. The majority of our staff had not worked with people with sight loss before starting work with us, they learned from training and from doing the work. The most important skill to bring to our direct services is to be outgoing and good with people – we can teach you the more technical knowledge that you'll need to know.

### **About our Children & Young People's Service**

Sight support Derbyshire (previously known as Derbyshire Association of the Blind) was founded over 100 years ago, initially to provide services to children. It was only after the outbreak of the first World War that work started with adults. So our work with children, while only a small part of our current work, is very important to us.

We know from children and young people who use our services that they really value coming to a group where they don't need to explain their condition, feel 'out of place' or worry about how they'll cope. They can mix with others who understand, and they can be themselves.

National research shows that:

- Nearly four out of ten blind and partially sighted children don't have friends close to where they live and go to school.
- Around a quarter of all blind and partially sighted children are unhappy with their life because of their sight loss and half of all parents are worried about their ability to learn at school.
- Nearly two thirds of parents feel that their blind and partially sighted children are more likely to be bullied at school and in the local community.
- More than 8 out of 10 parents are resigned to the fact that their child's life chances are limited by their eye condition and over half of blind and partially sighted children feel the same.

(RSBC 2008)

The SSD service helps children to overcome physical and personal barriers to participation, and helps them grow in confidence and thrive.

*"I never thought that I'd be able to climb on high ropes. I can't believe that I've done it, and now I want another go!"*

*"As a family the SSD days provide us with an opportunity to meet and speak with other parents in a similar position to our own and to also have fun with our children without feeling like the 'odd ones out'."*

Like all children and young people, our groups want to have fun and enjoy themselves!

### **Format of the support**

Our groups usually meet on Thursday evenings and venues vary depending on what activity is taking place. We also run some school holiday activities. Usually one each break and a few more during the longer summer holiday period. Activities vary depending on what the group choose to do and what we can organise.

Trampolining, clip and climb, Snow dome, theatre, cycling, arts and crafts, cooking are all popular.

As well as direct service delivery 'behind the scenes' we work hard to promote our services with the hospitals and with staff in schools.

### **What next?**

If you're still reading and are still interested, then have a look at the full job description and person specification and then complete the application form and get it back to us by the closing date. We'd love to hear from you.

Kind regards

Sight Support Derbyshire