

Senior Youth Worker

Job Description & Application Pack

An exciting opportunity to join the Blank Canvas team
working with young people in Redcar

B L A N K
C A N V A S

About the job

Location: Redcar
Salary: £25.5k - £27.5k dependant upon experience
Hours: 37.5 hours per week
Holiday: 25 days + bank holidays
Probation: 6 months
Termination: 1 month by either party
Start date: September 2024 or as soon as possible
Contract: Fixed term contract (3 years)



Occupational Requirements:

As this role includes Christian activities and practice, it is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be an active, worshipping Christian.

As this role is focused on young people in Redcar, the post holder will need to live in or live near to Redcar.

Why you should join the Blank Canvas' Team

In 2018, Blank Canvas was founded with a desire to create new stories of hope for young people in Redcar. By partnering with the local churches of Redcar who share the same desire our mission is to:

*Give every young person in Redcar the chance to hear the life-changing story of Jesus
Meet and respond to the practical needs impacting young people everyday across Redcar.*

Since 2018, Blank Canvas has grown into a recognised charity across the town, known for providing safe spaces for young people and advocating on behalf of the needs and struggles of young people and their families.

We are seeking to recruit a Senior Youth Worker to take a lead role in the creation and outworking of our 'Doxa' programme alongside supporting the continued growth of the charity.

As a Blank Canvas team we all come from different backgrounds, traditions and skills. The team is full of experience when it comes to working with young people and we are excited to gain more with a new team member.

You will have opportunities to lead not only projects and programmes but people, investing in our gap-year programme and local church leaders. We also prioritise each member of the team having the time to develop your own knowledge and skills.

Did we mention our office has a front row sea view?

The town of Redcar is a wonderful place to live but as with everywhere, it has its challenges and hardships. With two established youth clubs having been recently established, the Blank Canvas team are seeing the benefits of a regular space for young people to feel known and belong.

We are specifically seeking someone who has the skillset and experience of helping young people from our community explore faith. Alongside this you will inspire and support our partner churches as they seek to welcome young people into their spaces.

The Strategy

The MISSION is:

- To give every young person in Redcar the chance to hear the life-changing story of Jesus.
- To meet and respond to the practical needs impacting young people everyday across Redcar.

The VISION is:

- By 2030, there will be over 100 young people exploring faith across Redcar.

The SOLUTIONS are:

Safe Spaces

To provide safe spaces for young people to be known & belong

Advocacy

We advocate for young people and their families, believing in their potential and equipping them to reach their goals

Local Church

To equip the local church community to be a welcoming & championing voice for young people

Innovate

To consistently and creatively re-imagine the provision required to tackle the issues and needs impacting young people

The PATHWAY is:

1

2

3

4

5

Welcoming

Serving

Inviting

Modelling

Lifelong

WELCOMING: Spaces that engage with young people and allow relationships to be formed.

SERVING: Spaces which intentionally meet the needs of young people and help build healthy relationships.

INVITING: Spaces for the Christian faith to be shared and for young people to respond.

SHOWING: Space where young people can understand what it means to follow Jesus.

LIFELONG: Setting young people up for a life time of follow Jesus recognising their gifts and giving them opportunity to flourish.



Key responsibilities & tasks

1. DEVELOP, PLAN AND IMPLEMENT OUR DOXA PROGRAMME

The DOXA programme is the primary part of this role, we will support you as you LEAD, INNOVATE and CREATE pathways for young people to explore the Christian faith.

Prioritising steps three, four and five of the pathway, this is YOUR space.

Establish a mentoring discipleship pathway. Team young people up with a ROLE MODEL who will pass onto them a toolkit full of ways to grow in confidence as they follow Jesus.

2. Be an INSPIRATION to our army of volunteers, giving them the CONFIDENCE to find the gold in their own story of faith and share it.

3. Create and dream up RITES OF PASSAGE to help young people follow Jesus.

We're talking youth weekends away, retreats, moments of celebration, time around the table.

4. Build DEEP relationships with our local churches.

You will galvanise churches to welcome young people into their spaces. As you spend time with churches, you'll inspire future team members to volunteer with Blank Canvas.

5. Support our wider areas of work such as YOUTH CLUBS, WORKSPACE and the YAFA programme.

6. Be a PRESENCE in our local secondary schools, being a CONSISTENT and DEPENDABLE support to the school community.

8. Bring your VOICE and LEADERSHIP skills into the team, life and structures of Blank Canvas.

Participate in our rhythm of meetings with daily check in's, weekly tactical, monthly core teams and quarterly off-sites.

Context to the role

WORKSPACE

OUR AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH, REDCAR.

We aim to give young people confidence to complete their homework, to achieve and reach their goals! We provide them with a comfortable working environment, a hot meal, laptops, WiFi and supportive tutors. At Workspace, we help young people jump over the barriers that might be placed in their way when trying to fulfil their potential.

YOUTH CLUBS

IN 2022 WE LAUNCHED OUR FIRST SAFE SPACE YOUTH CLUB AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH, REDCAR.

This was in response to a survey with young people, finding out what life is like for them in Redcar, the issues they are facing and how they view the local church. They answered, 'there isn't anything on for us', 'we are bored' and 'we want safe spaces to meet our friends'.

They also said the local church was a safe space, somewhere they would go for help or something they didn't have any opinion about. The answers excited us and our vision for safe spaces was formed.

Young people come each week; they see the space as their own. What we didn't expect was how the team quickly became part of the joy of coming to youth club for the young people, the need was not just for safe spaces but safe people to talk to.

IN 2023 WE LAUNCHED OUR SECOND SAFE SPACE YOUTH CLUB AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, REDCAR, NOW LOCATED AT REDCAR BAPTIST CHURCH.

Add in a tuck shop, games, football, craft (yes craft!) and general noise, our youth clubs look from the outside to be like most others, but...

At both youth clubs we've launched DMC (deep meaningful conversation) rooms. These spaces are so popular with young people that the Nintendo Switch has had to move out.

In the DMC rooms, young people are asking questions of life, faith, the world and beyond. These conversations can be brief or long but are a starting point for something more and this has made us convinced that the need for this role is now.

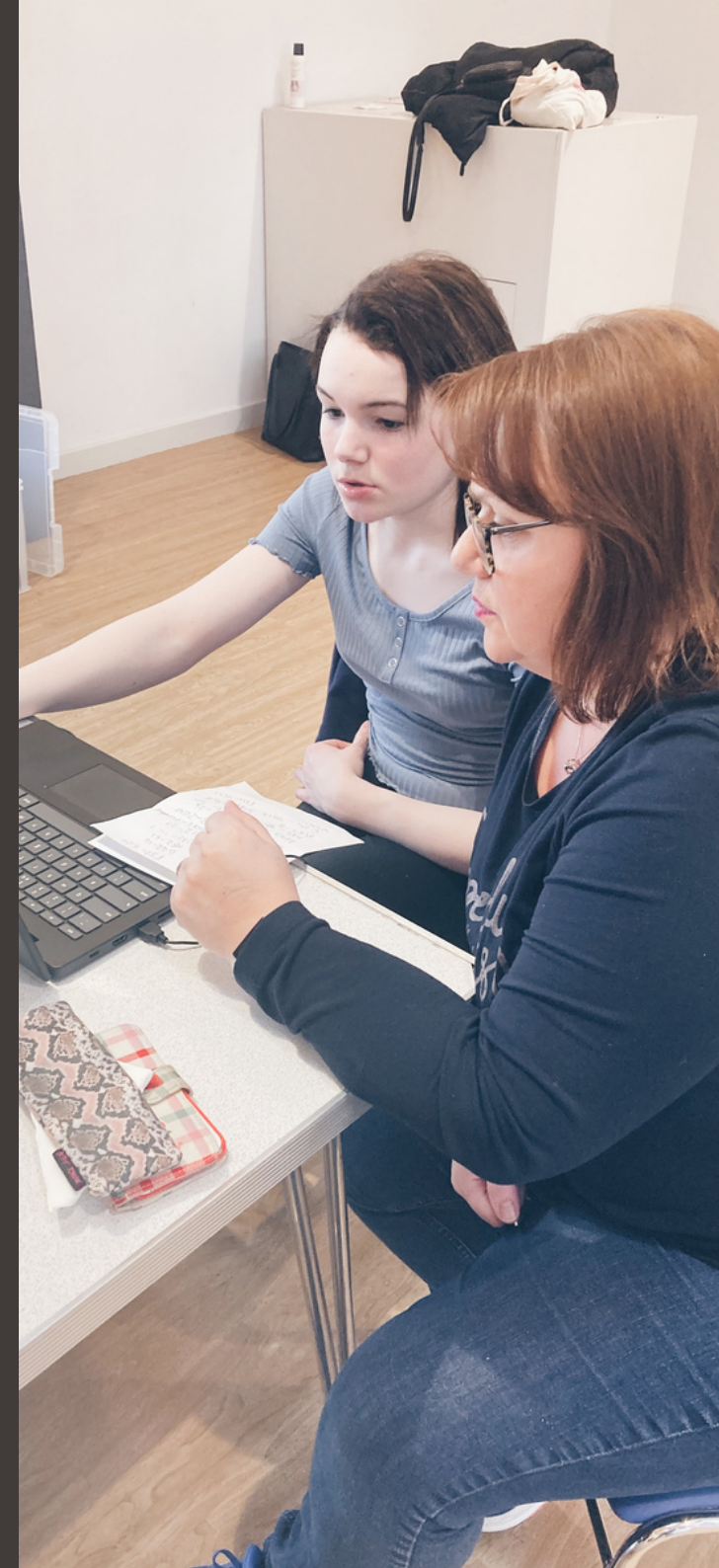
IN 2023 WE LAUNCHED THE Yafa (YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVOCACY) PROGRAMME.

Everything that we do is informed and shaped by the young people we are working with. This work only takes place with young people who have stated they would like to receive support and work with a mentor who will come alongside them. The work will look different with each young person as we seek to support their goals, and help them achieve all they would like too.

We connect with parents, schools, and other support agencies to gain an understanding into young people's world and offer the most appropriate and targeted support.

AND NOW...

We have intentionally created and developed stages one and two of our pathway. We are thrilled and excited with how our work has developed and the relationships we have built with young people. We have a staff and volunteer team that feels like friends on a mission and now our hope and prayer is to develop stages three, four and five.



How to apply

1. If you are thinking about applying for this role, we would strongly encourage you to have a phone call with Abi Hedges, our Project Lead to understand more about the role. To do this, drop Abi an email at abi@blankcanvasyouth.com

2. To apply for the post, complete an application form which you can access blankcanvasyouth.com/jobs
Make sure you check that you meet the occupational requirements for this role.

3. Complete the application form no later than midnight on 29th April 2024.

4. We will be in touch to let you know whether you have been shortlisted for interview on or before 1st May.

5. Interviews will take place the week commencing 6th May and will involve joining in with one of our youth clubs. (We will cover your travel expenses)

6. If successful, in line with our safer recruitment policy, the role will be subject to providing references, a satisfactory DBS and proof of eligibility to work in the UK.



www.blankcanvasyouth.com

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REGISTERED CHARITY: 1182185

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