

Job Opportunity:

Generalist Adviser (Trainee positions available)

citizens
advice

Derbyshire
Districts

Hours: 30-37 hours per week (depending on applicant)

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £26,366 to £28,825 per annum, pro rata (depending on experience)

Location: Ilkeston (With travel to outreach locations and other community venues across Erewash and Amber Valley)

About the role:

We have an exciting opportunity for a **Generalist Adviser** to join our existing advice services team who deliver advice to the public on a wide range of issues. The post will involve providing both **face to face** and **telephone advice**, based at our **Ilkeston** office, with travel to outreach locations and other community venues across **Erewash** and **Amber Valley**. The role will require you to provide advice on our main enquiry areas including checking **welfare benefit eligibility**, assisting clients to make **benefit claims**, challenging decisions and providing **energy advice**. There is flexibility in this role which allows for some remote/home working where appropriate.

We welcome applications from experienced advisers, as well as those looking to train in this vital area of work. **Full training and support will be provided** for the right trainee candidate.

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. We are proud to be a **Disability Confident Employer** and hold the **Derbyshire LGBT+ Rainbow Accreditation**.

Who we are looking for:

The ideal candidates will have:

- Excellent **communication skills** – both written and verbal (essential)
- A **non-judgemental, empathetic approach** to people (essential)
- Strong **IT and digital skills**, with the ability to learn new systems quickly (essential)
- A commitment to working to **performance targets** and **KPIs** (essential)
- A solid understanding of the **current welfare benefits system** (preferred)

What we offer:

We're proud to offer a comprehensive benefits package that supports your wellbeing, work-life balance, and professional growth:

- **Generous annual leave:** 35 days per year (pro rata), including all bank holidays and Christmas
- **Buy/sell leave scheme:** Flexibility to buy or sell up to one week of leave each year (pro rata)
- **Employee Assistance Programme:** Includes wellbeing support, free counselling, and lifestyle perks
- **Contractual sick pay:** depended on length of service
- **Long service rewards:** Extra leave and gift cards after five years of service and beyond
- **Workplace pension:** Auto-enrolment into our pension scheme
- **Hybrid working:** the option to work from home, if it works for you and for us

To view and download the recruitment pack and to apply for the role visit:
www.citizensadviceDerbyshireDistricts.org.uk/staff/

Closing date: When a suitable candidate is found
Interviews: TBC

Job Description

Generalist Adviser

Team: Advice Service Team

Reports to: Advice Service Manager

Role Purpose: To provide advice sessions in remote locations or our fixed sites, liaise with generalist advice provision and the telephone service, taking responsibility for managing own levels of casework

Key Responsibilities

Advice and Casework:

- Provide advice and casework covering the full range of topics
- Act for the client where necessary by calculating, negotiating, drafting or writing letters and telephoning
- To provide face to face advice primarily at an outreach setting but also through other channels including telephone and email as needed by clients and to meet funder requirements or service demand
- Negotiate with third parties such as statutory and non-statutory bodies as appropriate
- Ensure income maximisation through the take-up of appropriate welfare benefits
- Prepare and present cases to the appropriate statutory bodies, tribunals and courts as appropriate
- Assist clients with other related problems where they are an integral part of their case and refer to other advisers or specialist agencies as appropriate
- Ensure that all casework conforms to organisation procedures and policies
- Maintain accurate and detailed case records for the purpose of continuity of casework, information retrieval, statistical monitoring and report preparation
- Assist with research and campaign work by providing information about clients' circumstances
- Provide statistical information on the number of clients and nature of cases, and provide regular reports to organisation management
- Ensure all casework conforms to the quality standards, including maintaining accurate records, as set out by Citizens Advice, funders and the Service Manager
- Attend outreach location staff meetings and external meetings as identified with the line manager
- Attend and provide support and advice at food bank locations
- Attend community and stakeholder events where required
- Assist with initiatives for the improvement of services

- Ensure information about the Citizens Advice service is displayed prominently at the outreach location at all times and take responsibility for local publicity and promotion to ensure that potential users are kept aware of the service

Teamwork and Relationships:

- Maintain positive and professional working relationships with all colleagues
- Participate in team meetings, training sessions, and service reviews as required
- Maintain professional and good working relationships with all staff at outreach locations
- Attend away days, development days and events

Professional Development:

- Work with your line manager to identify and pursue your individual training and development needs
- Keep up to date with relevant legislation, case law, policies, procedures, and service delivery changes through ongoing training and self-directed learning

Other duties and responsibilities

- Carry out any other tasks that may be within the scope of the post to ensure the effective delivery and development of the service
- Demonstrate commitment to the aims and policies of the Citizens Advice service
- Abide by health and safety guidelines and share responsibility for own safety and that of colleagues
- To support and monitor the wellbeing of staff within the organisation and to contribute to maintaining a healthy balanced workforce
- Identify own learning needs and appropriate ways of meeting them
- Work within the organisations policies and procedures

Please note: This job description is not exhaustive or exclusive. It is intended as an outline of the key areas of activity and may be amended in line with the evolving needs of the organisation

Person Specification

Generalist Adviser

Team: Advice Service Team

Reports to: Advice Service Manager

Role Purpose: To provide advice sessions in remote locations or our fixed sites, liaise with generalist advice provision and the telephone service, taking responsibility for managing own levels of casework

Essential:

- Ideally will have knowledge and experience of all Citizens Advice subjects, including the current benefits system, welfare reform, debt and housing. This is not essential in all areas as training will be provided if required
- Effective oral communication skills with particular emphasis on negotiating and representing
- Effective writing skills with particular emphasis on negotiating and representing and preparing reviews, reports and correspondence
- Ordered approach to casework and an ability and willingness to follow and develop agreed procedures
- Understand the issues involved in interviewing clients using sensitive listening and questioning skills in order to allow clients to explain their problem(s) and empower them to set their own priorities
- Numerate to the level required in the tasks
- Ability to check the accuracy of calculations
- Ability to use IT in the provision of advice and the preparation of reports and submissions
- Ability to give and receive feedback objectively and sensitively and a willingness to challenge constructively
- Ability and willingness to work as part of a team
- Ability to monitor and maintain own standards
- Demonstrate understanding of social trends, issues facing society and their implications for clients and service provision
- Ability to commit and work within the aims, principles and policies of the Citizens Advice service
- Ensure that work reflects and supports the Citizens Advice service's equality and diversity strategy
- An understanding of equality and diversity and its application to the provision of advice
- Possession of a full driving licence and use of a car, or otherwise able to fulfil the travel requirement

Desirable:

- Up to date in depth knowledge of the benefits systems
- Ability to carry out accurate benefit check calculations
- Basic knowledge of multiple enquiry areas such as housing and debt to aid with identifying emergencies and making referrals where appropriate

Expectations of staff:

- Adhere to organisation policies in relation to the use of ICT and information assurance
- Raise Research and Campaign issues and take action for individuals and spot trends
- Maintain detailed case records for the purpose of continuity of casework, information retrieval, statistical monitoring and report preparation for the project or funder
- Provide a good quality experience for clients
- Provide reports to the line managers at the end of every quarter by project - without prompt
- Be responsible for own administration, record keeping, diaries and filing
- Be a resource for the organisation – for volunteer advisers to use your expertise and skills
- Provide support to supervisors and other colleagues
- Provide cover when requested
- Provide good quality case studies
- Record client feedback both positive and constructive, and take appropriate action
- Be proactive around the organisation
- Be responsible for own training and development
- Promote the organisation and its services externally to ensure good relationships and positive outward facing image

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