

Youth Work Manager

South Essex

Bar 'n' Bus Trust is a Christian charity delivering professional, community-based youth work providing support programmes and services for young people aged 10-19.

Work includes:

- Detached & Outreach Youth Work - on the street or in community spaces, engaging young people in the places they choose to gather
- Mobile Youth Work - positive activity & engagements sessions using our bespoke Mobile Youth Vehicles
- Targeted Youth Work Programmes - e.g. healthy relationships work, complementary education reducing risk of exclusion, wellbeing programmes
- 1-1 Support - empowering support for young people in school and community settings

As Youth Work Manager you will be a hands-on lead for our team of Youth Workers and volunteers, ensuring a high quality of support for young people.

You will also lead on training programmes for staff and volunteers (including providing national qualifications), develop opportunities for youth voice and participation within the charity and manage local partnerships and networks.

You will report directly to our CEO, contribute to organisational planning, act as Designated Safeguarding Lead and invest in young people and our amazing youth work team.



Our Vision & Faith

Our Vision

Bar 'n' Bus is a Christian charity working with young people throughout Essex.

We work in partnership with local churches, schools, councils and groups to provide professional, community-based youth work, seeking transformation and fullness of life for young people. We employ professional youth workers as well as recruiting, training and supporting teams of volunteers to offer a wide provision of community youth work.

Our heart is to provide programmes for young people in the location of their choosing, rather than bringing them to our own venues. A large amount of our work takes place 'on the street' with detached youth workers engaging young people in parks, high streets and playgrounds, as well as utilising mobile youth vehicles for outreach sessions. We also provide a large amount of in-school support such as mentoring, bespoke group work and commissioned support programmes.



Our Faith

We believe that God loves the world and cares about every young person - wanting them to live full, positive and meaningful lives. This faith leads us to give our time and efforts to seeking transformation in young people's lives through support, advice and positive activities, reflecting God's love through our actions.

Faith is a motivating factor in our work, and a spiritual reality for our team - with regular times of prayer and worship being an integral part of our operation. Faith is not, however, a requirement for those engaging with our work or services and is not necessarily at the forefront of our conversations with young people.

We exist to provide for young people's social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs regardless of their beliefs, background or status

Key Tasks & Responsibilities

- Oversee the full programme of community-based youth work provision in South Essex, providing services based on young people's needs and with young people at the centre. This will include
 - Detached & Mobile Youth Work
 - Open Access & Group Work Delivery
 - Targeted Programmes and 1-1 Support in schools and the community
- Lead & empower the Youth Work Team, ensuring smooth day-to-day running of youth work programmes taking a hands-on approach and leading/supporting delivery
- Line-Manage Youth Workers, facilitating development of youth work delivery, investing in staff development, offering support and guidance and promoting a high quality of youth work practice.
- Be responsible for resource management for the youth work team to ensure that youth workers have all they need to deliver high-quality work
- Increase opportunities for youth voice and participation within the charity - involving young people in service design and decision-making
- Act as Designated Safeguarding Lead for the charity, ensuring compliance with safeguarding legislation, policies and best practice
- Be responsible for recruitment, induction and supervision of youth work staff and expanding volunteer engagement
- Be responsible for training opportunities within the charity, including formal qualifications, to develop staff and volunteers
- Monitor, evaluate and report on programme outcomes and performance indicators in line with funder and organisational requirements
- Secure project funding, manage budgets and generate income by identifying financial opportunities, developing funding proposals, and ensuring the sustainability of youth programmes
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with delivery partners and stakeholders, including schools, voluntary sector organisations and statutory services
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with local churches and expand mission opportunities through increasing volunteering, partnership and collaboration
- Actively contribute to the development and delivery of Bar 'n' Bus' organisational strategy
- Participate and lead others in the spiritual life of Bar 'n' Bus (through active involvement in prayer meetings, theological reflection and spiritual development activities) and maintain the Christian ethos of the organisation.
- Drive charity vehicles (van, mobile unit, towing trailer) on youth work activities as required (inhouse training will be provided)
- Work within all Bar 'n' Bus's policies and procedures e.g. HR, health and safety, safeguarding etc.
- Be a face-to-face contact with the public, representing Bar 'n' Bus to individuals and organisations, reflecting the Christian ethos of the organisation
- Undertake any other duties as requested by line-management

Person Specification

The successful candidate will have a passion to create and maintain transformational opportunities for young people through leading and supporting a committed team of youth workers and volunteers.

Experience & Skills

- Committed to Bar 'n' Bus' mission, vision and values – with a particular passion for mobile and detached youth work
- Substantial and recent youth work experience in a pioneering, leadership position
- Educated to degree level with a relevant youth work or youth ministry qualification (ideally JNC 6-7)
- Experience of management and leadership within the charity sector
- Proven ability to develop, monitor & evaluate work in response to the needs of young people
- Proven ability to line-manage others and motivate a youth work team
- Proven ability to build successful partnerships in a community development context – especially with local churches.
- Experience of working with and leading teams
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Familiarity and know-how in representing the ethos and objectives of a faith-based organisation to external audiences.
- Hold a current full UK driving licence & have access to a private vehicle insured for business use
- Is over 21 and have held a full UK driving licence for more than 2 years (this is a requirement of driving charity vehicles)
- Understanding of and commitment to Equal Opportunities.
- Knowledge of Health and Safety management.
- Significant knowledge and experience of Safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures and ability to support others within safeguarding practices.

Desirable

- Experience of leading training and/or assessing qualifications in youth work
- Proven track record of funding youth work programmes and using systems to monitor outcomes for funders
- Experience as a Designated Safeguarding Lead

Attributes

- A person who identifies as a Christian, is passionate about working in partnership with churches and is able to engage fully in the spiritual life of the charity through Christian prayer & theological reflection
- A servant leader with a supportive and empowering approach to management who works hard for their team, is willing to fill gaps and take on a diverse number of roles to ensure smooth running of youth work operations
- A natural, creative problem solver who is able to work around challenges to meet needs and increase opportunities
- A person with a genuine heart for young people (particularly those others would deem 'hard-to-reach') with a desire to increase opportunities to aid their growth and development
- A person who is excited about Bar 'n' Bus' mobile approach to youth work, is confident to drive large vehicles and motivated to see resources well used and maintained.
- A person who is flexible over hours of work and willing to work evenings, weekends and overnight
- A person who acts with integrity and empathises with others
- A confidence leader who knows when to provide direction and when to offer support

Terms of Employment

This is a full-time role (37 hours per week, usually worked over 5 days) requiring evening and weekend work

Employment is conditional upon a satisfactory Enhance DSB Disclosure

Location: South Essex Office

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £36,054.05 - £39,026.06 dependant upon qualifications and experience

Start Date: January 2027

What We Offer

Annual Leave: 25 days, plus bank holidays

Pension: 5% employer contribution

TOIL: Time Off in Lieu of additional hours work and residentials as agreed with line-management

Professional Development: Access to a range of relevant training and qualifications.

Wellbeing: Funding and Support for staff team to access a range of mental health and wellbeing support

Culture: A supportive, collaborative team with regular team meetings, prayer & worship and shared learning

How to Apply

How to apply: Send an up-to-date CV with covering letter outlining your interest and suitability for the role with reference to key tasks and person specification to hello@barnbus.org.uk

Submission Deadline: Applications should be made by Noon (12pm) on Thursday 5th November 2026

If you have any questions about the role, please contact us at hello@barnbus.org.uk

