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|  | **West Cheshire Foodbank**Unit 3/4 Stanney Mill Industrial EstateDutton GreenChesterCheshireCH2 4SA**T** 0151 355 7730**E** info@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk**W** www.westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk |

**Pathfinder Participation Worker**

Job Description and Person Specification

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Responsible to: Pathfinder Project Lead

Salary: £11 per hour

Part-time: up to 18 hours per week

Temporary: Initially one year, with potential to extend

**Overall responsibility of the job:** To work alongside the Pathfinder Project Lead to help engage and support a small group of people who are currently, or recently had to rely on charitable food support. Alongside sharing their own experience, they will encourage and enable members of the group to have a voice and share their experiences, in a safe space.

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| **Background** Established in November 2012, West Cheshire Foodbank (WCFB) is part of the Trussell Trust’s UK network of over 1000 Foodbanks, which provide food to people in crisis in their local areas. In 2021 West Foodbank became part of the Pathfinder Project – an initiative of Trussel Trust to work with a number of local Foodbanks, across the country to help work towards a future where less people will need to use Foodbanks. West Cheshire Foodbank are committed to working alongside people struggling against poverty which results in food insecurity, to learn from and be shaped by their knowledge and experience. |
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| **Responsibilities**As Participation Worker you will meaningfully engage people who use foodbanks, in the decision making, development and leadership of the service.The postholder will do this by:* Building relationships with people using Foodbank to develop trust.
* Supporting participants to get and remain involved.
* Reaching out to people using Foodbanks and other local food aid, to encourage them to become participants.
* Communicating regularly with participants to ensure attendance at “get togethers”.
* Helping to facilitate “get togethers” and encouraging participants to actively take part.
* Giving specific support to participants where needed to help them remain involved.
* Providing logistical support - arranging venues and refreshments for “get togethers”. Ensuring venues are set up, accessible and comfortable for everyone.
* Ensuring all travel expenses etc of participants are reimbursed or paid in advance where necessary.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:**Personal Qualities**Preference will be given to someone who really understands how it feels to struggle against poverty. You may have had to rely on Foodbanks yourself, at some stage. This lived experienced is essential to fulfill this role and be able to relate with other participants.The postholder will:* Be able to show empathy and show they value everyone’s contribution.
* Be open and friendly, able to build relationships and trust.
* Have excellent communication skills, including truly listening.
* Be organised and self-motivated.
* Be able to engage with people through phone, text, WhatsApp etc
* Be open to learning from and listening to others.
* Be willing to develop their own skills through various learning and development opportunities.
* Show commitment to tackling poverty and reducing the need for Foodbanks.

For more information and an informal chat please contact Clare Roberts on:07865 273999 orclare@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk |