Job Title: **Community Connector – Funding and Governance**

Reports to: Senior Community Connector

Salary: £25,500 (pay review pending)

Hours: 35hrs per week

Job Purpose

Inspire has a team of Community Connectors who work collaboratively as a team with some shared areas of responsibility and a thematic 'speciality'.

The core elements of the Community Connector purpose is a focus on engaging, mobilising and connecting the skills, knowledge and talents of every community based organisations into the wider South Tyneside system They focus on what is 'strong' not what is 'wrong'. They are very comfortable encouraging community leaders and professionals to keep reaching out to bring in the assets and energies of people and resources who are often left out. They are community weavers, intent on bringing the community together relationship by relationship, strength by strength.

The thematic speciality of this role is to support and develop organisations in South Tyneside though governance and organisational structure advice, funding support and information and capacity building.

Main Responsibilities

1. Take an asset based community development approach to working alongside communities to make connections, build conversations and increase opportunities for interaction, participation and social action.
2. Use, promote and support the development and impact of Plinth, our community engagement platform
3. Recognise, value and amplify the lived experience of our communities and consider how this could be embedded in our system.
4. Work in a locality to ensure visibility and connectivity across South Tyneside
5. Build strong relationships across community organisations – be the first port of call
6. Identify and support local organisations and individuals who wish to work to strengthen community assets
7. Develop and lead on thematic or place based networks and projects
8. Facilitate access to advice, training, support to maximise capacity, resources and social action

9. Alongside colleagues in the Community Connector team support and promote volunteering in the Borough including recruitment of volunteers
10. Assist in the development of new organisations providing advice and guidance in developing governance processes and policy development
11. Support organisational start ups through advice on structural choices
12. Provide timely and useful funding advice and support to South Tyneside organisations and support organisations in accessing funding opportunities
13. Develop and maintain positive relationships with funders and ensure strategic insight is shared effectively.
14. Host an annual funders fair in South Tyneside
15. Lead on internal governance for Inspire South Tyneside
16. Establish and maintain positive relationships with statutory partners, local businesses and others as appropriate to build effective partnerships

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Essential

1. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships with community members, colleagues, public sector employees and appropriate agencies across a geographical area
2. A people person who is happy to chat to anyone at any time about any subject. Must be able to engage and work effectively with people from different backgrounds in ways that appreciates their assets and is sensitive to their needs. Able to keep confidences. Able to identify and support community based strengths and assets
3. Understanding of and commitment to the VCSE sector
4. Able to demonstrate knowledge of equalities and diversity issues, including understanding of barriers to participation and inclusion and evidence of addressing this in practice.
5. Strong relationship builder with excellent partnership working and networking skills.
6. Able to demonstrate a solution based approach to resolving project issues and delays and a common sense approach to getting things done.
7. Knowledge of charity regulations, legal structures and appropriate policies and procedures
8. Ability to understand and read annual accounts, spotting anomalies or areas of concern
9. Experience of monitoring and evaluating work and producing written reports and funding applications
10. IT literacy
11. Commitment to co-production