

11 September 2020

Dear Applicant,

Director of Service Development and Improvement

Thank you for expressing an interest in Together for Short Lives and this exciting role of Director of Service Development and Improvement.

Our vision is to ensure that the 99,000 children and young people with life-shortening conditions in the UK have lives that are as fulfilling as possible. We work with families and the brilliant people and services that support them – in hospital, in children's hospices and in the community – to ensure that children and families get the support they need. The truth is that because of inconsistency in the planning and funding for these services over many years, the support that these families receive depends significantly on where they live and how well they can advocate for themselves. And much of the care they rely on is funded by generous voluntary donations from the public.

Together for Short Lives believes this situation is both unjust and unsustainable. And we are concerned that this injustice will only deepen as the impact of coronavirus is felt. We are here to make sure families can access the right care and support and that those providing it have the skills and resources they need. Which is where you come in.

We now seek a Director of Service Development and Improvement to help lead the next phase of our development. We have real aspiration for growth, both in terms of our size and the impact we make. We already punch well above our weight – leading the way in children's palliative care guidance and good practice, securing significant policy change and providing advice to families, professionals and organisations. Over the last year we have begun to re-focus our work to have the biggest impact on children and families. This is both in terms of what we offer in family information and support and how we help children's palliative care services to deliver quality care and be sustainable for the long term.

You will join a small but passionate and energetic team, providing inspirational strategic leadership and clinical expertise to our work to improve the quality and availability of children's palliative care. You will play a key part in helping shape the future vision for children's palliative care in the UK and will lead our work to help families and develop programmes to support professionals and organisations. You will have outstanding networking and influencing skills, adept at building strong partnerships with a range of stakeholders.

This is a unique senior appointment for an experienced clinical leader who can quickly establish credibility with those working in children's palliative care and bring their experience to a national role.

I am reasonably flexible when it comes to your working hours and location, although a willingness to travel to Bristol and across the UK will be necessary. What is most crucial is that you have the experience, credibility and above all the passion to take us to the next level and help ensure all children and families get the support they need. If you believe you can demonstrate all that we require then I very much look forward to hearing from you.

All best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy Fletcher', with a stylized, flowing script.

Andy Fletcher
Chief Executive