

Youth Development Officer Job Description

We are looking for an enthusiastic and determined individual to help drive and develop vision to progress the youth work under the 60/40 Youth Project¹ and schools/college work² under the **Ascension Trust**³ umbrella.

There are two focuses in this role:

1. Leading on our **60/40 Youth Project**. You will pay primary focus on the local area around the King's Acre Community Hub, as well as schools in Lambeth. There will also be a focus in the **Lambeth Methodist Circuit** and local church communities, through existing youth work programmes and the Sunday Schools in individual churches. As part of this role, the postholder will work in collaboration with London City Mission workers and also the Young Life worker in post.
2. Coordinating and supporting the **National Schools and College Pastors Initiatives** and developing strategies to grow and strengthen the work of our teams and also to promote the network and collaborations with other organisations.

This is a role that allows for flexibility and creativity in approach with training and support available to grow the individual in post.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

Youth Development Officer:

1. Pray regularly for and with the young people in your care and influence.
2. Identify, recruit, inspire and model good practice with emerging leaders.
3. Actively build relationships with young people to encourage a deepening of Christian maturity, including visits of young people and their families.
4. Identify and engage young people who may be unknown to the church community and/or hidden from society. This will include undertaking detached youth work and work with other organisations such as statutory services.
5. Link with schools and alternative education services in the locality to provide pastoral support and encouragement for young people in vulnerable situations.
6. Develop consistent and regular youth provision for the local community including term time and school holiday provision.

Schools and College Coordinator:

1. Support and encourage existing School/College Pastor Initiatives.
2. Develop vision, strategy and training for growth in new and existing initiatives.
3. Build new and strengthen existing relationships to help promote holistic school

support in faith and secular spheres of society.

4. Provide guidance on framework to develop the initiative at both a local and national level.
5. Stay informed with key school and curriculum changes at a national level to help guide initiatives.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Qualifications, Skills and Competencies:

1. A recognised youth work qualification or valuable youth work experience.
2. A committed and open Christian faith and willingness to occasionally work within the wider church community.
3. Strong leadership skills including ability to work on own initiative and as part a team.
4. Organisation and management skills to coordinate others supporting the programmes.
5. Ability to maintain discretion and confidentiality.
6. Compliance with an enhanced DBS check with the Child Barred List.
7. Competency in working with new technology including social media.

Desirable Qualifications, Skills and Competencies:

1. Experience in discipling young people and emerging Christian leaders and modelling good discipleship practice either in a paid or voluntary capacity.
2. Ability to develop and deliver training to new recruits/volunteers for the nature of schools/youth work.
3. Evidence of a range of personal interests relevant to young people.
4. Flexibility in working hours which will include evenings and weekends.
5. Effective interpersonal and communication skills including writing, presentation/public speaking and effective listening skills.

SALARY: £26,000 per annum

WORKING HOURS: 35 hours/week. Flexibility available to structure around evening/afterschool hours and weekend sessions.

TRAINING: Access to training through London City Mission, Young Life and Ascension Trust will be made available to the successful applicant.

TO APPLY: Please obtain a job specification and application form by visiting the Ascension Trust website at www.ascensiontrust.org.uk, emailing hr@ascensiontrust.org.uk, by telephone on 020 8330 2809, or by writing to Ascension Trust, Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden, London, SM4 4TQ.

¹ **Ascension Trust (AT)** is a Registered Charity founded by Reverend Les Isaac OBE in 1993 with a mission to empower the church to respond effectually to the call of being "salt and light" in their community, city and nation. As a Christian inter-denominational organisation with an emphasis on faith working through love, Ascension Trust seeks to improve the quality of life of the disadvantaged and vulnerable irrespective of

background or belief. Ascension Trust operates as the umbrella body for Street Pastors, School and College Pastors, Prayer Pastors, Urban Mission, the 60/40 Youth Project and several other projects locally and abroad.

² **The 60/40 Youth Project** is a collaborative initiative that is made up of Ascension Trust, the Lambeth Methodist Circuit, London City Mission and Young Life International.

³ **School and College Pastors** is a national ministry enabling local church members to provide pastoral support and care to the prevalent needs within a school or college environment and/or the surrounding community.