



Playworker Recruitment Pack



Welcome to St Chad's!

As a main community hub for our residents, we support a wide range of individuals and families. We focus on the locations of Bensham, Saltwell, Teams, Lobley Hill and Central Gateshead. We focus our support to people from low income households, refugees and asylum seekers. Despite the challenges people face, we know everyone has the potential to thrive and fulfil their potential with a little extra help. We are here for all ages, backgrounds and circumstances. The charity acts as a first point of contact for many vulnerable or at risk local people. We deliver a range of preventative and integrated services to help hard pressed families and individuals during difficult periods of their lives with practical, social and mental wellbeing support.

Our Key Strategic Pillars

Children and Family

OFSTED registered childcare

1-1 Family Support

Family Support Groups



Commercial and Retail

St Chad's Thrift Shop

St Chad's Market



Community Services

Partnership Project

ESOL Classes In-person and online

Men's & Women's Group



You can read more about the work we do on our website -

www.stchadscommunityproject.org

We are a
Living Wage
Employer



Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our **vision** is to build a vibrant and resilient community in Bensham.

Our **mission** is to offer a range of community focused services that support residents to become empowered and connected, helping create one community.

Our core values

We add real value – we offer relevant services that meet our community's needs, making a difference in the quality of our resident's lives.

We are trustworthy – we trust and respect each other, our residents, and delivery partners. Everything we do is underpinned by mutual respect.

We are supportive – we are friendly and approachable; we build trust and rapport with our residents and delivery partners through teamwork.

We are professional – our standards and delivery are exemplary. Our staff, volunteers, and trustees are fully trained and have personal development plans to help them become the best versions of themselves.

We demonstrate **behaviours** based on our **core values**:

We are responsive – we recognise our community has changing needs, and we will be flexible in our response to meet existing and emerging needs.

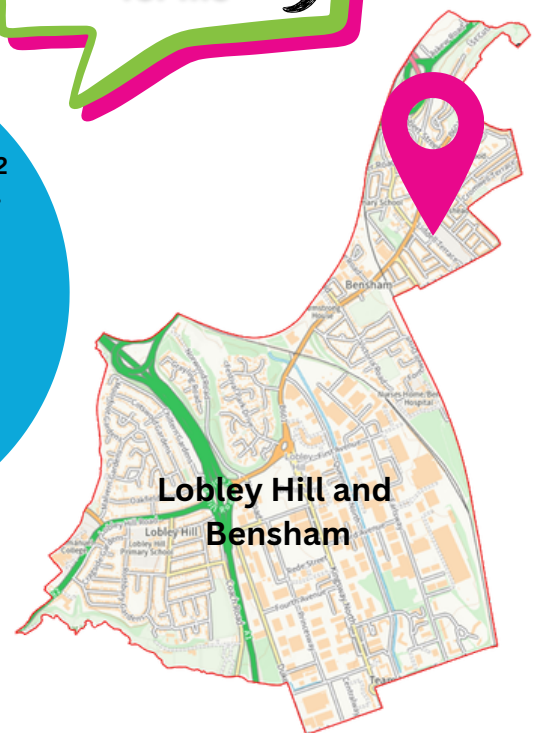
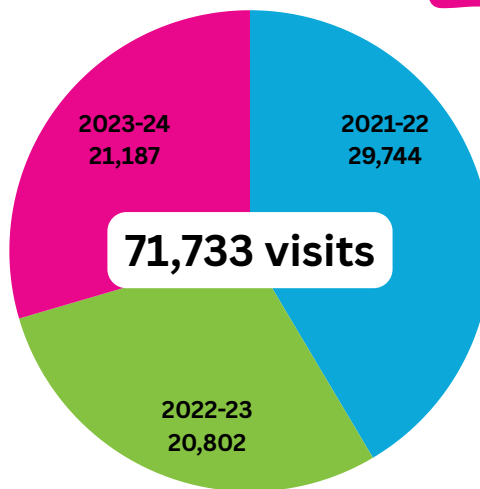
We are respected – we are proud of what we do, and we are professional in our delivery.

We are trusted – we will be open, inclusive, non-judgemental, and supportive of each other and our community.

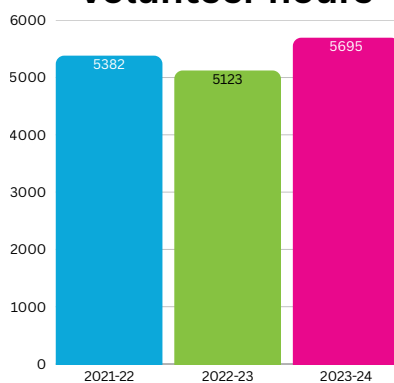
We are accountable – in everything we do.

We are welcoming – we will always greet you with a smile, and a gentle and appropriate sense of humour.

“ St Chad’s is a safe space for me ”



**16,200
volunteer hours**





Building a vibrant and resilient community

21 Liddell Terrace, Bensham, Gateshead, NE8 1YN

0191 490 1032

ltreception@stchadscommunityproject.org

www.stchadscommunityproject.org

Role Description

Role:	Playworker
Strategic Pillar:	Children and Family Services
Salary:	Band - A £13.45 per hour
DBS checks:	Enhanced DBS will be required upon appointment
Reports to:	Head of Children and Family Services
Contract type:	Permanent
Hours or work:	16-37.5 hours per week (all year round), to be discussed on appointment

Main purpose

At St Chad's Community Project we are on a mission to support our community to thrive. In 2024 we welcomed 21,817 visits to our building and our Family Support team worked with 1,546 families. We have an Ofsted rated 'Good' childcare service, deeply embedded in the local community of Bensham, Gateshead. We offer nursery, creche, out of school clubs including local school pick ups and holiday care for children aged 0-14 years.

The role contributes to our three-year strategy to empower and connect children and families through a "stepping stone" approach, supporting children at every stage of their development. Building on our core strengths and strong reputation for delivery, the postholder will play a key role in creating a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment while working in partnership with families to provide consistent, reliable support throughout their childcare journey.

We are committed to providing:

- Sessions that always prioritise the safeguarding of the children.
- Regular consultation with parents and children and listening to the 'child's voice'.
- Resources for children to plan their own play opportunities.
- A free flow environment allowing children access to the garden area at all times, no matter the weather!
- Ambitious play opportunities that promote the child's development, self esteem and confidence based on the EYFS & the Playwork Principles.
- A staff team that is qualified, approachable and supportive towards children's needs and the needs of their family.
- Services that will follow legislation to date, for example, OFSTED regulation, The Children and Families Act 2014, EYFS, Every Child Matters.

We are looking for a dedicated and experienced Playworker to support the day-to-day operations of our setting, ensuring high-quality care and early years education for all children across our services.

Role Description (cont.)

Main responsibilities

All employees of St Chad's Community Project are required to ensure our mission, vision and values are at the centre of all operational decisions and champion equality, equity, diversity and inclusion. There is an expectation that you will be flexible to work outside of your usual hours when necessary to complete the duties of the post and be committed to continuing your own professional development. Key areas of responsibility include:

Supporting Children and the Team

- Support the Room Leader and wider childcare team in providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all children.
- Build positive, caring and respectful relationships with children, helping them to feel safe, valued and confident.
- Support children's individual needs, interests and development, recognising that every child is unique.
- Work as part of the childcare team to provide high-quality care, learning and play opportunities.
- Follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and support the delivery of age-appropriate learning experiences.
- Support children to develop their independence, confidence and social skills through everyday activities and play.
- Act as a positive role model for children, demonstrating kindness, respect and positive behaviour.
- Support children from a range of backgrounds, cultures and abilities, ensuring all children are included and able to participate.
- Support children with SEND in line with their individual needs and guidance from the Room Leader, SENCO and other professionals where appropriate.
- Follow all safeguarding policies and procedures and report any concerns promptly to the appropriate member of staff.
- Support the team in maintaining high standards of health, safety, hygiene and cleanliness.
- Follow all childcare policies, procedures and risk assessments to ensure children are kept safe at all times.

Activity Planning and Delivery

- Support the Room Leader in planning and delivering fun, engaging and stimulating activities for children.
- Encourage children to explore, investigate and learn through play.
- Support activities that promote children's development across the prime and specific areas of the EYFS.
- Follow children's interests and respond positively to their ideas, questions and curiosity.
- Encourage children to develop their communication, physical, social and emotional skills through play and everyday interactions.

Role Description (cont.)

Safeguarding, Health and Safety

- Maintain a safe and secure environment for children at all times.
- Follow safeguarding procedures and remain alert to signs that a child may need additional support or protection.
- Follow appropriate procedures for accidents, incidents, medication, allergies and health concerns.
- Support regular checks of the room, resources and outdoor areas and report any hazards, damage or concerns to the Room Leader.
- Ensure toys, equipment and resources are used safely and appropriately.
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the childcare environment.
- Follow food hygiene procedures where involved in the preparation or serving of food and drinks.
- Ensure children are appropriately supervised at all times, following agreed staffing arrangements and risk assessments.

Additional duties

- Support the Room Leader and wider team in providing a high standard of care and education for all children.
- Contribute to a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment where children feel happy, safe and supported.
- Support positive behaviour by using appropriate, consistent and age-appropriate approaches.
- Encourage children to develop positive relationships with their peers and adults.
- Support children with transitions throughout the day, including arrival, mealtimes, toileting, sleep and collection.
- Assist with observations, record-keeping and other childcare documentation as required.
- Support the preparation and maintenance of displays, activities and learning environments.
- Ensure resources and equipment are stored safely, clean and ready for use.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues and communicate effectively with the Room Leader and management team.
- Attend staff meetings, training and professional development opportunities as required.
- Maintain confidentiality and treat children, families, colleagues and visitors with respect at all times.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties appropriate to the role as requested by the Room Leader, Deputy Manager or line manager.

Personal specification - EYFS & Children Services Room Leader

All St Chad's staff members must...

- Show a commitment to and enthusiasm for our vision, mission and values.
- Be able to cope with the demands of the post and commit to attending training.
- Have the ability to treat beneficiaries and colleagues in accordance with policies on equalities and dignity at work, safeguarding and health and safety.
- Have a genuine interest and ability in building supportive relationships.
- Be able to work as part of a team.
- Have the ability to organise and prioritise work, alongside delegating and managing the workloads of others.
- Have a flexible and 'can do' attitude. Be resilient, able to think on one's feet to address and solve problems.
- Be innovative and forward thinking.
- Be able to work in a changing environment and take people with you.

Qualifications and training	
Essential	Desirable
• Full and relevant minimum level 3 qualification or higher	• Relevant safeguarding and child protection training undertaken and a willingness to update training regularly • Enhanced DBS • Paediatric First Aid training • Knowledge about the Playwork Principles
Skills and experience	
Essential	Desirable
	• Experience in an EYFS environment. • Experience of working with children with SEND, and children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Personal specification - EYFS & Children Services Room Leader

Knowledge

The successful candidate will have...

- An understanding of curriculum and pedagogical issues in relation to EYFS.
- Creative and stimulating strategies which engage and motivate children.
- An ability to maintain consistently high standards and ensure quality of teaching.
- An ability to promote and sustain high standards for children.
- A clear understanding of child development and how this contributes to teaching strategies.

Personal traits

The successful candidate will have...

- Excellent communication skills.
- An ability to establish and maintain professional working relationships.
- A high level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Excellent time management skills and organisation.
- An ability to model good practice and engage in self-reflection.
- An ability to think strategically and manage problems.
- Good customer service skills, acting with a calm and courteous manner.
- A positive approach to learning and gaining new skills through teamwork and training opportunities.

Application Process

We are accepting applications on a rolling basis and will review applications as they are received. Interviews will be arranged for suitable candidates throughout the recruitment period, and we may appoint before the advert closes once we have found the right person.

Early applications are therefore encouraged.

To apply please email

jaskaur@stchadscommunityproject.org

for an application pack and instructions.



If you have any questions about the role we would be more than happy to arrange a phone call or a visit.

Please get in touch via the contact email above and one of the team will be in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Living Wage
Employer

