



## Job Description and information

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Job title: Researcher  
Reporting to: Director, Youthscape Centre for Research

Hours – 24 hours (3 days) per week  
Salary – £26,000 pa pro-rata

Employment to commence as early as possible.

The role holder would be expected to work at Bute Mills in Luton. Requests for flexible working arrangements can be considered.

Deadline for applications is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August and interviews will be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Please send completed application forms to [lucie.shuker@youthscape.co.uk](mailto:lucie.shuker@youthscape.co.uk), copying in [mulkina.mackay@youthscape.co.uk](mailto:mulkina.mackay@youthscape.co.uk)

### **About us**

Youthscape is a youth work organisation passionate about seeing transformation in the lives of all young people. We develop innovative, proven ways to address the key contemporary issues that they face and especially those involving their social, emotional and spiritual health. Our team are based in Luton, Bedfordshire, where we pioneer work with young people in schools, churches and the local community.

The hub of this local work is Bute Mills - a five-storey youth centre and training facility, a place where new youth work ideas are constantly being born and put to the test. We then share what works nationally through our training, consultancy and resources - and inspire and equip churches to transform the lives of young people in their communities.

The Youthscape Centre for Research is a think tank situated at the heart of Youthscape. We believe that innovation in youth work, and sustainable change for young people requires reflective, rigorous and theologically grounded research. We serve the wider vision of Youthscape - to see positive transformation in the lives of all young people. The Centre for Research creates and shares knowledge, that stimulates reflection and action to improve young people's lives. We particularly aim to serve and inform Christian youth workers, and the wider Church, but conduct research about the needs and experiences of young people in general, adopting a holistic approach to their emotional, spiritual, and social health.

### **Aims of the Centre for Research**

1. Create new research that illuminates the worlds young people inhabit, and that catalyses change in the ways people think about and act toward them.
2. Make relevant research accessible to those who can use it to support young people
3. Shape wider conversations, nationally and internationally, about young people, youth work and faith
4. Support the work of the wider Youthscape team, particularly in the areas of innovation, evaluation and the use of evidence

## **Job Information**

The post holder will support the Director of Research on a range of research tasks including data collection, analysis and writing. Experience undertaking primary or desk-based research would be valuable.

The role also includes editing and producing 'The Story', our quarterly research 'zine for Christian youth workers. This publication is likely to undergo some development over the next 12 months and ideally the post holder would become responsible for any new ways we gather, analyse and share existing research with Christian youth workers.

The role is an exciting opportunity for someone who is both enthusiastic about research and committed to its use by youth workers within and beyond the Church. Experience of either quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis is important, though the post holder will be supported in the development of these skills.

The successful candidate will be thoughtful, organised and self-motivated. The post holder will be the only other member of the Centre for Research team, so we are looking for someone who is committed, willing to learn and will make a confident contribution to our work.

We particularly welcome applicants with a range of experiences that have equipped them to fulfil the requirements of this role, and those from diverse backgrounds.

## **Key responsibilities and tasks**

### **1. To work on a variety of research tasks under the Director's supervision**

- 1.1 Support the drafting and piloting of research tools
- 1.2 Draft ethical protocols for submission to the Youthscape Ethics Committee
- 1.3 Collect a range of qualitative and quantitative data in the form of surveys, interviews, case studies or focus groups
- 1.4 Liaise confidently with potential research participants, partners and other stakeholders on the phone, via email and in person
- 1.5 Undertake data analysis using NVivo, Excel and SPSS (training provided)
- 1.6 Maintain systems for collecting and storing data, contact details and other project documentation in accordance with GDPR
- 1.7 Draft written reports and make presentations internally and externally as required.

### **2. To support the evaluation of Youthscape projects as necessary**

- 2.1 Use existing templates to support Youthscape staff to develop evaluation frameworks for their projects
- 2.2 Work with staff to draft evaluation tools and recording systems
- 2.3 Review evaluation data with staff, helping them to learn from it and to communicate effectively with funders

### **3. To support the publication and distribution of four copies of 'The Story' every year**

- 3.1 Work with the Director to make editorial decisions on themes and articles for The Story
- 3.2 Independently source, review and summarize relevant research and statistics for each edition
- 3.3 Commission and edit written pieces from other researchers and Youthscape staff
- 3.4 Liaise with the designer and printer to produce The Story according to a publication schedule
- 3.5 Oversee the marketing and distribution of The Story to relevant stakeholders, with support from the wider Youthscape team

**4. To provide administrative support for Centre for Research activities**

- 4.1 Draft occasional Centre for Research mail-shots
- 4.2 Contribute to @YWresearch twitter account
- 4.3 Write occasional blog posts for publication on the Youthscape website
- 4.4 Support storage and management of stock (publications)

**5. To fulfil wider responsibilities as a member of Youthscape**

- 5.1 To participate, as required, in meetings, training and development, and staff activities within Youthscape, including our weekly chapels on Mondays at 9am and attendance at three 48-hour retreats each year.
- 5.2 To share in the general responsibilities of all staff with regards to: welcoming visitors to Bute Mills, answering the telephones and handling general enquiries
- 5.3 Be an active member of the wider Youthscape team, being supportive and interested in others' work, seeing and building links across the organization to enhance our work
- 5.4 To support, as required, other Youthscape work in consultation with Line Manager.

## Person specification

Essential	Desirable
<b>Experience, knowledge and qualifications</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate Degree with ability to conduct academic research</li> <li>• Awareness of the significance of ethical approaches to research with children and young people</li> <li>• Awareness and understanding of youth culture, youth work and youth ministry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Masters degree, including training in research methods (e.g. experience of NVivo, SPSS or equivalents) and experience of undertaking primary research</li> <li>• Training and experience in research ethics with children and young people</li> <li>• Experience as a paid/voluntary youth worker, or in a youth work context</li> <li>• Theological training</li> </ul>
<b>Skills and abilities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to evaluate research evidence and make appropriate judgements about its meaning and applicability</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills, including ability to relate to people in different contexts</li> <li>• Ability to multitask and manage competing priorities</li> <li>• Good administrative skills, including ability to plan projects and manage own time</li> <li>• High standard of computer literacy</li> <li>• Strong communication skills including oral, written and social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of infographics, or experience with data visualization</li> </ul>
<b>Attributes and values</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong Christian faith</li> <li>• Gracious and accepting of others</li> <li>• Honesty, integrity and fairness</li> <li>• Self-motivated and committed</li> <li>• Passionate about using research to steer the direction of Youthscape and the wider church</li> <li>• A willingness to travel and be away from home overnight if and when the role requires</li> <li>• Willing to live in or close to Luton.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver with independent means of transport</li> </ul>

## Conditions of employment

Location	Bute Mills, Luton
Salary	£26,000 pa pro-rata
Hours	24 hours per week
Holiday	25 working days plus bank holidays pro-rata
Termination	1 month by either party

There is a requirement that the role be held by a Christian.  
Existing Youthscape terms and conditions of employment apply.

Youthscape is committed to safeguarding the welfare of young people and expects all employees to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory DBS check being received.