

Staff Recruitment Policy

In line with the Action 21 Equality, Diversity and Safeguarding Policy the staff recruitment process must result in the selection of the most suitable person for the job in respect of skills, experience and qualifications.

Recruitment Authorisation

The filling of any vacancy must be authorised by the Board of Trustees before taking any other action and when making the request consideration must be given as to whether the role could be absorbed amongst the rest of the team. Cost implications will also be considered.

Job Descriptions and Advertisement

Once authorisation has been obtained, the General Manager will produce a job description for the vacancy which provides a fair and accurate representation of the role. All vacancies will be advertised externally and within Action 21 to all members of staff and volunteers.

Candidates who apply for positions with Action 21 must be notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible and this will be confirmed in writing.

Recruitment Interviews

Recruitment interviews will be arranged and conducted by the General Manager and at least one Trustee. Whenever possible the interview arrangements will be confirmed in writing to the candidate.

Offer of Employment

An offer should be made verbally to the candidate and, once agreed; a contract of employment raised and sent out with the offer letter. Once the most appropriate candidate has been selected by the interview panel and the offer of employment made, the Board of Trustees should be informed.

References & DBS checks

All employment offers are conditional upon receipt of two references and a DBS check which are satisfactory to Action 21.

Should satisfactory references not be received within a reasonable timescale it may be necessary to withdraw the offer of employment.

Qualification Certificates

Applicants may be required to provide evidence of qualifications. False certificates or qualifications that come to the attention of Action 21 at any stage during employment may become the subject of disciplinary action and may lead to dismissal.

Work Permits and Illegal Working

All successful applicants will be required to provide evidence of their right to work, by providing qualifying evidence as follows:

- A passport (current or expired) showing the holder is a British citizen or a citizen of the UK and Colonies having the right of abode in the UK.
- A passport or passport card (in either case, whether current or expired) showing that the holder is an Irish citizen.
- A current passport endorsed to show that the holder is exempt from immigration control, is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, has the right of abode in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK.
- A current Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the named person is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK or has no time limit on their stay in the UK, together with an official document giving the person's permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a government agency or a previous employer.
- A birth or adoption certificate issued in the UK, together with an official document giving the person's permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a government agency or a previous employer.
- A birth or adoption certificate issued in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Ireland, together with an official document giving the person's permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a government agency or a previous employer.
- A certificate of registration or naturalisation as a British citizen, together with an official document giving the person's permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a government agency or a previous employer.

If a prospective employee is unable to provide evidence as detailed above, Action 21 will seek further guidance on other accepted forms of evidence of proof to work in the UK.

In order to avoid discrimination, it is essential that the same criteria are applied to every person who is offered employment with Action 21.

It is the responsibility of the recruiting manager to ensure that a relevant document has been supplied which satisfies the criteria set out above.

If an applicant is not able to produce one of the listed documents or other evidence of their right to work in the UK, then their employment will be put on hold until evidence can be produced and the offer may be withdrawn.

Personnel Records & Starter Procedures

Personnel records are held by Action 21. A file containing paper records is held for each employee and will include:

- Contract of Employment
- Personal information – New Starter Form - Next of kin - Home address
- Changes to terms and conditions
- DBS report
- First Aid certificate
- Absence records
- Current Disciplinary details
- Records of any Training undertaken
- Records of Objectives and Performance Appraisals

These records are held in a secure environment, only accessible to General Manager. Electronic records may also be held by General Manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any applicants who consider that they have been unfairly treated or discriminated against during the recruitment process should write to General Manager stating the grounds of the complaint. Any employee who wishes to complain about their experience of the recruitment process should do so by means of the Resolving Problems Procedure.

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Appendix 1 - Recruitment procedures

Job Descriptions and Advertisement

The job description should be given to all candidates prior to interview to enable them to prepare adequately for the interview which will improve the success of the interviewing process. Particular care must be taken when producing job descriptions to ensure that requirements of the role are reasonable and can be objectively justified and will not unfairly disadvantage certain groups e.g. women, ethnic minorities, elderly or disabled persons.

Shortlisting

Preparation is the key to maximising the likelihood of selecting the most suitable candidate for the position.

- Identify specific job-related criteria using the job description
- Match these criteria with those detailed in the candidate's CV
- Use this to select which candidates will be invited for interview, if appropriate. Once a list of criteria has been identified it is useful, particularly when considering a large number of candidates for one position, to record how the candidate(s) compare using a tabular format, as follows:

Name	Criteria					
	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4	Criteria 5	Criteria 6
Candidate 1						
Candidate 2						

Recruitment Interviews

Preparing for the Interview

- Identify any areas on the list of criteria that need further exploration or clarification. For example, where it is not obvious from the candidate's CV that they possess the required skill.
- Identify any other areas on the CV that need further exploration or clarification. Look particularly for unexplained gaps in employment, a succession of rapid job changes, or a statement of achievement that needs to be validated.
- Formulate the questions to be covered in the interview with room for note taking and scoring. Ensure that they will enable all the above information to be gathered.

During the Interview

- Use the same questioning strategy with each candidate and do not ask for any personal information or views that are not relevant to the job as this could be considered discriminatory
- Do not accept partial or unclear answers to any of your questions, probe for more detail if necessary, give every candidate an opportunity to answer the questions fully
- Try to keep questions open, not questions which require a simple yes / no answer.

After the interview

Read through your notes about each candidate and score the candidate on the interview question sheet. Your reasons for appointing or not appointing a particular candidate are important in case your final decision is challenged e.g. under the Sex, Age, Race or Disability Discrimination Acts.

- Compare each candidate against the job description again in light of the additional information you now have concerning each candidate.
- Make an assessment for each candidate as to whether they will fit the culture of the team and Action 21 as a whole. However, ensure that you are not discriminating against any candidate because he/she is a different sex or of a different age or from a different racial, religious or cultural background to the rest of the team.
- **Do not pick the best of a bad bunch** – recruitment mistakes are costly and time consuming and ultimately it is better to re-advertise to get the right person.
- If you are uneasy or unsure about anything that was discussed in the interview, ask the candidate back for another interview or talk to them over the phone to clarify. Do not ignore your instincts and offer the job anyway and hope that it will be alright.
- Let all candidates know whether they are successful or not as quickly as possible. Delays could mean that you miss out on the best candidates.

Offer of Employment

In setting a starting salary to offer the chosen candidate bear in mind the salary level the candidate is seeking, the budget and the authorised salary range (as shown on the Job Description Form). An offer should be made orally to the candidate and once agreed, a contract of employment needs to be raised and sent out with the offer letter.

References

The referees should usually be the applicant's current or previous employers. In the case of a college or school leaver the college tutor or teacher will be acceptable.