

Job Advertisement: Co-operative Development Worker

Location: Sheffield

Salary: £35,000 - £40,000 depending on skills and experience

Contract Type: Full time, permanent

Closing Date: **30 June** 2025

Are you passionate about co-operatives, community empowerment, and sustainable development?

We are looking for a dynamic and motivated **Co-operative Development Worker** to join our team. In this role, you will be working to support the growth and sustainability of co-operatives and community-owned businesses, contributing to a more equitable and inclusive economy.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Support the establishment of new co-operatives:** Provide advice and guidance to individuals or groups wishing to set up a co-operative, from initial concept through to the launch stage.
- **Assist existing co-operatives:** Offer ongoing support to help co-operatives improve governance, grow their membership, and develop business strategies for long-term success.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Deliver workshops and training sessions on co-operative principles, governance, and best practices to new and existing co-ops.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Promote the co-operative model to local communities, businesses, and policymakers, raising awareness about the benefits of co-operative ownership.
- **Partnership Development:** Build and maintain relationships with other organisations, local authorities, and key stakeholders to expand the co-operative sector.
- **Funding and Resources:** Assist co-operatives in accessing funding, grants, and other resources, ensuring they have the tools they need to thrive.

About You:

You will bring a passion for community-led development, a solid understanding of the co-operative model, and the ability to work with diverse groups. You should be self-motivated, adaptable, and committed to promoting democratic, member-owned businesses that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Essential skills and experience

- Committed to co-operative approaches
- Knowledge of co-operatives and community businesses
- Business development knowledge/experience
- Commercially aware, with particular interest in lending
- Experience of delivering training and events
- Knowledge of co-operative and community owned enterprises in Sheffield and the surrounding areas
- A motivated self-starter, willing to work in a flexible manner and experience of managing own workload and priorities
- Good communication and IT skills
- Awareness of other providers that give support and advice
- 'Can-do' attitude
- Demonstrable partnership working and networking skills
- Genuine commitment to and understanding of equal opportunities

Desirable skills and experience

- Experience of supporting and advising co-operatives and community businesses
- Experience of community development
- Experience of undertaking research and writing reports
- Knowledge of the various legal structures available to co-operative and community-owned enterprises
- Understanding of appropriate legal frameworks
- Knowledge of equal opportunities practice
- Experience in securing and delivering consultancy contracts and/or grant funding
- Driving licence and access to a vehicle

What We Offer:

- **A rewarding role** helping build stronger, more resilient communities through the co-operative model.
 - **Flexible working arrangements** and opportunities for professional development.
 - A supportive and inclusive environment where your contributions will make a direct impact.
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How to Apply: Please submit your CV and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and why you're passionate about the role to alan@scdg.org
For more information about the role, please contact Sheffield Co-operative Development Group on 01142823100 or email alan@scdg.org

No agency applications will be accepted

Equal Opportunities: We are committed to creating a diverse environment and are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.