

Safety Centre – Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes Chief Executive

We are looking for a new Chief Executive to start in September 2020 (or soon after) to lead and manage the Safety Centre (known to all as Hazard Alley). We are seeking an influential and inspirational leader with a strong external focus and natural ability to engage.

Our brilliant Director, Jo Green, is leaving us this autumn after four fantastic years which have further enhanced the Safety Centre's reputation as one of the most innovative and admired hands on learning experience for young people. In a normal year around 14,000 young people visit the centre to learn about how to keep themselves safe. The Centre has been closed for nearly four months but during that time we have carried out a financial restructure of the charity and are in the process of completing a sale and lease back arrangement which will give us a significant injection of working capital and provide a sound foundation on which to build a new look organisation post Covid-19.

The building blocks for a great future are in place:

- A captivating Centre with real life scenarios including railway line, streets, houses, building site, shop, lake and canal as well as classrooms and other teaching resources. Plans and funding in place for a new scenario to teach young people about avoiding the dangers of gangs and knives. All this managed by our experienced and very capable Operations Manager.
- A fantastic, enthusiastic and committed team of volunteers, itching to get back to taking children around the Centre, who are managed and supported by our fabulous Volunteer Co-Ordinator.
- A schools outreach offer that complements centre visits and is attracting increasing amounts of external funding and building relationships with schools.
- A sound financial management system using Xero, a committed and experienced treasurer on the Board and a very able Finance Manager on the staff team.
- A great board of 10 trustees from diverse backgrounds and with senior level experience in the police, fire, teaching, charity governance, local authority, criminal justice system, marketing, health and safety and finance.
- Some long-standing supporters and partnerships including: Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Thames Valley Police, Bedfordshire Crimebeat, local authorities and parish councils, The Parks Trust, Co-op, Cityfibre, Tickford Security.
- Recent investment in new systems to create an integrated CRM and sales process as well as a new online volunteer management system. Being cloud based during the pandemic made remote working much more manageable.
- Increased visibility across social media and other platforms, leading to greater awareness of us & winners of two business awards in early 2020
- A 25 year track record of providing hands on safety education to over 500, 0000 children who remember their visits to 'Hazard Alley' with great affection and are natural supporters.



The Chief Executive will be someone who has the skills and expertise to lead all aspects of the charity and make the most of the opportunities before us.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees your responsibilities will include:

- Providing inspiring leadership to The Safety Centre staff, volunteers and supporters.
- Ensuring the Safety Centre is well run and continues to provide outstanding hands on safety education
- Developing the next three-year business plan
- Working with Trustees to develop the longer-term strategic direction of The Safety Centre and
- Developing new and financially sustainable ways of providing safety education, building on the grant funding and business support base we already have in place
- Safeguarding and building on the strong reputation the charity and establishing beneficial partnership arrangements with public and private sector organisations that will ensure the charity is financially sustainable for the long term
- Ensuring sound financial management
- Ensuring we have good standards of governance
- Speaking and writing with authority about the issues facing young people and society and being a powerful advocate for safety education, winning support for the Safety Centre and the solutions it offers in the process.

The successful candidate will be educated to at least degree level (desirable) and have a track record of five years plus operational and strategic leadership. Experience within the education or youth work sector would be an advantage, as would experience of working in or volunteering for a charity or social enterprise. They will also need some experience of the financial management of an enterprise working with annual revenue in excess of £250k and of managing a small staff team.

The Safety Centre has a core team of 6 staff plus approximately 40 volunteers.

If you have bags of enthusiasm and an understanding how to develop a regional social enterprise such as ours, we would love to hear from you! Please apply with covering letter explaining why you feel you are right for this role with a full CV attached.

Salary and hours

We consider this to be a full-time role but we are very willing to discuss this and to be flexible in order to secure the best person for the job. Salary will be based upon experience.

An offer would be subject to satisfactory enhanced DBS check and references.



Application process

For an informal discussion about the role or to visit the centre prior to making an application, please email Jo Green, the current CEO, at jo@safetycentre.co.uk

Applications

To be sent via email to David Foster, Chair of Trustees, at d.foster@theparkstrust.com

Deadline for applications

5pm on 31st August 2020

Contact details

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