

# JOB DESCRIPTION

## REACH Strategic Lead

<b>Purpose:</b>	To develop a detailed plan to operationalise the REACH Plan, including the structure, governance, funding, partnerships and activities that will lead to finding what works in prevention and recovery from domestic abuse. The Strategic Lead will also build key relationships in the sector, in survivor networks, in academia and among research funders and in national government to ensure acceptability and secure support for the plan and its objectives.
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Director of Evidence
<b>Number of hours:</b>	We will consider full or part time hours
<b>Length of Contract:</b>	Fixed term contract, 6 months – ideally October 2024-March 2025
<b>Salary:</b>	Competitive salary
<b>Other info:</b>	We will consider a secondment arrangements. Applicants can be based anywhere in England providing they can self-fund occasional in person meetings in London (approx. once per month).

### The organisation

Foundations strives to be a great place to work, where everyone is high performing and where together we achieve impact that makes a real difference for vulnerable children and families. We focus on generating and championing high quality evidence, working directly with government and local leaders to provide practical solutions and achieve change. We're an organisation with ambitious aims and our people are essential to our success.



## The landscape

In May 2024, Foundations launched REACH (Researching Effective Approaches for Children): A plan to find out what works to prevent domestic abuse and support child victims.

Domestic abuse and its impact on children continues to be a prevalent issue, with a significant impact on children's outcomes. Current services are extremely varied and under enormous pressure due to funding constraints and lack the means to evaluate what they do. Most programmes for children have not been evaluated at all. There are currently no services that have been rigorously evaluated and proven to have an impact on children's outcomes. We want to change this.

Whilst evaluation in this sector is difficult, it is possible. We need to find out how best to stop domestic abuse happening in the first place and to support children when they become victims and ensure this evidence informs local services and national policy.

## The role

This postholder will need a broad range of skills to bring the REACH plan to life, including leadership, governance, relationship building, influencing and work planning. They will work closely with the Foundations leadership team to progress the existing plan to the point of being ready to launch a successful programme of work in April 2025.

## Key tasks

Produce a costed road map for operationalising REACH, including:

### **Developing a plan for overall structure and governance of the REACH plan**

- Decision on whether REACH should be an independent organisation or located within another organisation and if so, which one.
- Plan for leadership and structure of the body that will deliver the REACH plan.
- An active and engaged expert advisory group, involved from the outset.

### **Working with others**

- Developed and strong relationships with key stakeholder organisations and individuals to support the delivery of the REACH plan.
- Embedded survivor voices in the work to deliver the plan and governance structure and ensuring the acceptability of the plan with survivors.
- How best to ensure small grass roots organisations and 'by and for' providers are fully included in the work undertaken on REACH.
- Funding commitments from cross-government departments and other funders for the delivery of the plan.



- Work collaboratively with Foundations policy and public affairs colleagues to advocate for REACH and win the support and funding needed to take the work forward.
- Work collaboratively with Foundations’ Evidence, Programmes and Local Delivery colleagues to deliver integrated projects, and support the strategic development of the REACH plan.

## Operationalising the portfolio of activities

- A clear plan of activities, including evaluation, that sets out the delivery of the plan within reasonable timescales.
- Timescales/project plans for different phases of the REACH plan at every stage of the funnel, including how we identify and select programmes and how we would work with evaluation/delivery partners.
- Standards for progression of interventions through the pipeline, gateways etc.
- Plan for other specific capacity building activities e.g. designing a specific fund for ‘by and for’ orgs, further outcome measures work, addressing data challenges across the sector

## Additional information

### Data protection

If staff have contact with computerised data systems, they are required to process and/or use information held on a computer in a fair and lawful way. Staff are also required to hold data only for the specific registered purpose and not to use or disclose it in any way incompatible with such purpose.

### Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity (EDIE)

Foundations is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment. Foundations is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive organisation. All posts (and postholders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

### Person specification

Requirement	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications and training</b>		
1. Degree-level education or equivalent experience.	X	
<b>Experience</b>		



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2. Operational experience: experience of organisational development and leadership	X	
3. Excellent understanding of the domestic abuse sector, including practice, policy, and research	X	
4. Strong understanding of evidence (including experimental evidence), evidence-based policy, and the role that evidence plays in service improvement	X	
5. Evaluation background		X

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### **Knowledge, skills and abilities**

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6. Knowledge of public policy process at a national and local level	X	
7. Ability to build strong relationships and influence in government, the sector, and among academic experts	X	
8. Understanding of early intervention and children's social care	X	
9. Excellent written communication skills, with the ability to communicate technical concepts to a non-technical audience	X	
10. Ability to locate evidence and research in the local and national policy landscape and identify implications for government		X
11. Experience with funders and fundraising strategies		X
12. Experience of delivering a complex initiative, on time and to a high standard	X	

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### **Personal qualities**

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13. Personal commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people, and their families	X	
14. A passion for the agenda around What Works Centres and the broader agenda around evidence-based policy and practice in public services	X	



15. An active commitment to ensuring that equality, diversity, and inclusion are part of all work

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X