



Information for candidates

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. About WESC Foundation

WESC Foundation is a well renowned visual impairment centre for the education, care and support of children, young people and adults, based in Exeter in the south west of England. We cater for young people with all levels of sight loss, multi-sensory impairment and a wide range of complex needs. We have a school and a specialist post 16 college. We also run other support services, including adult day opportunities, supported living and a residential centre for young adults. We have an unrivalled knowledge of how to adapt and deliver education and practical support, fine-tuned to someone's specific visual impairment.

Our individualised curriculum for young people and adults with visual impairment and complex needs offers an adapted National Curriculum for school learners and accredited academic and vocational courses for college learners. We adapt our curriculum for young people with a visual impairment ensuring that all their needs are met. All our teachers and staff are equipped to provide a high quality service. Most WESC teachers are MQVI (Mandatory Qualification for teachers of learners with a visual impairment) trained or working towards it meaning they can provide the best learning and support for the young person.

One of the unique features at WESC Foundation is our fully integrated therapy and mobility service, offering a wide range of support as part of the individualised curriculum. We have speech and language and occupational therapists, physiotherapists, a music therapist, and a team of specialist visual impairment mobility practitioners. We also have a large team of classroom and home enablers who support our students with their learning in the classroom and their life skills in their leisure time. We also have an expanding work opportunities programme delivered across the classroom and through our Social Enterprise team.

Our on-site education programme is offered in two streams - the Exe Programme, including National Curriculum Level 1/Entry 1 and above, for school and college learners with moderate learning difficulties and the Dart Programme for school and college learners with complex needs and learning difficulties. We also offer Outreach VI Services for learners and teachers in mainstream schools, colleges and HE providers.



2. Our vision for WESC Foundation

Over the next five years we have an ambitious vision for our students and for WESC Foundation following on from the current strategic plan. This includes:

- Achieving outstanding for our school and college ensuring that our young people get the highest quality education that is specifically adapted to their needs
- Growing the school and college to become the leading centre in the UK for young people with visual impairment and complex needs
- Developing and expanding our outreach programme to ensure young people in mainstream schools and colleges can access our specialist visual impairment support
- Developing a wider range of community based services for young people with visual impairment across the South West
- Becoming a centre of excellence in the areas of employment and work opportunities for young people with visual impairment

3. About the role of Director of Education

This is a new role within WESC Foundation. In September 2017 the board decided to separate the previous role of CEO and Principal, in order to support and strengthen the focus on the overall strategic development of WESC Foundation as an educational, care and support charity. With the appointment of Jane Bell as CEO in January 2018, there has been a review of the management structure of WESC to ensure that there is sufficient clarity, focus and expertise in the key areas of care and support, education, business and commercial development. The board has agreed that in education there needs to be a new and different role that solely concentrates on delivering our educational ambitions within WESC Foundation. The post holder will set the vision and direction for our educational services going forward working closely with the CEO, the Executive team and the Board of Trustees.

It will be your job to take us to outstanding in school and college and to develop and expand all aspects of our educational offer. You will ensure that our teachers deliver outstanding teaching and learning within a specialist curriculum that really meets our student's needs. You will ensure that our students are supported to set and achieve ambitious targets. You will make sure that our students' time at WESC Foundation is effectively used to enable them to develop their independence towards living a full and active adult life as a citizen in their local community.



We are looking for someone with passion and commitment, who sees the potential in everyone. You will have had a successful career in education and have held a relevant senior education leadership role for at least 3 years. You will know inside-out what outstanding looks like and know how to get there because you have done it before. You will have an understanding of visual impairment, multi-sensory impairment and/or complex needs alongside significant management skills and experience. You will have a strong and inspirational leadership style and be able to put energy and drive into the role and motivate the education staff team of WESC Foundation. We are ambitious and expect you to be too.

4. About working for WESC Foundation

You will join an organisation of approximately 250 employees led by Jane Bell, CEO and an active and engaged board of trustees. You will work 37 hours per week on a 52 week basis. You will be based on our campus in Exeter, but occasional travel will be part of the role.

We offer 6 weeks holiday, an occupational pension scheme, an on-site subsidised café, free parking, training and development opportunities and access to a company lease car scheme.

5. How to apply

For an informal conversation, to arrange a school visit or to request an application for this role, call our advising consultants Xen Yiasoumi on 020 3194 9678, xen.yiasoumi@tes.com or Michael Watson on 020 3194 3473, michael.watson@tes.com.

Closing date: 30th April 12pm. CVs alone will not be accepted.

Assessment and formal interviews will take place on Wednesday 9 May 2018 at our campus in Exeter. You will need to be available the whole day from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. We are looking for someone to take up post in September 2018.