



## Centre for Social Justice – Job Description

### Head of Programme, Alternative Education

#### THE ORGANISATION

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Established in 2004, the Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank that studies the root causes of Britain's acute social problems, and aims to address them through recommending to government practical, workable policy interventions. The CSJ's vision is to give people in the UK who are experiencing the worst multiple disadvantage and issues of injustice, every possible opportunity to reach their full potential.

The majority of the CSJ's policy work is organised around five pathways to poverty, first identified in our ground-breaking 2007 report, *Breakthrough Britain*. These are: family breakdown; educational failure; economic dependency and worklessness; addiction to drugs and alcohol; severe personal debt. In March 2013, the CSJ report *It Happens Here*, shone a light on the horrific reality of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK. This report led to the passing of the Modern Slavery Act, which gained Royal Assent in March 2015.

#### THE ROLE

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The Centre for Social Justice is looking for a bright, driven individual to lead a brand-new team of school exclusion/alternative education policy specialists.

The successful candidate will build on the findings and recommendations of our recent report "Providing the Alternative", which exposed several deeply concerning realities regarding the nature of exclusions and the support that exists beyond.

The purpose of the role is to spearhead a major research/policy drive in this area, with a view to informing systemic change in our education system - both to eliminate avoidable exclusions and improve the quality of alternative provision.

#### THE PERSON

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- Ability to analyse, understand and synthesise qualitative/quantitative information, and to present these findings in a concise and engaging way (essential).
- Excellent team-building/managerial skills (essential).
- Excellent drafting skills, including the ability to tailor to different audiences (essential).
- A sharp communicator (essential).
- Excellent project management skills (essential).
- A commitment to the CSJ's vision, mission and values (essential).

- Background in one or more of the following: research, policy, law, consulting or education (desirable).
- Experience of engaging with policy experts (desirable).
- Experience of managing pupils with complex needs (desirable).

## MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

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Reporting to the Head of Education, responsibilities for this post will include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- Leading a high-profile policy programme to stop avoidable school exclusions and improve alternative provision in England.
- Managing and developing a team of three exclusions/alternative education policy specialists to meet programme goals.
- These goals relate to several initiatives aimed at further understanding the drivers of school exclusion, the geographical spread and quality of alternative provision, and the nature of successful early intervention.
- Drawing on existing and new evidence to refine and develop public policy solutions.
- Supporting organisational initiatives to embed exclusions/AP in the mainstream policy lexicon, build support from MPs for our proposals, and sustain public interest in this policy area.
- Managing working relationships with external partners and other key stakeholders.

Other duties that may arise from time to time.

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[www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk) | @csjthinktank

*“On behalf of everyone in our country, let me be the first to thank you for all you are doing to tackle the social challenges we face... your innovation and commitment is helping to make Britain a country that truly does work for everyone.”*

**The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister, March 2018**