

Community Engagement Manager – Portsmouth

Location: Portsmouth, hybrid between home and local office, with one day per month in London office

Reports to: Head of Communities and Partnerships

Contract: 3 days per week, 18-month fixed term contract

Salary: £33,670 – £35,490

Benefits: 25 days annual leave plus bank holidays (pro rata), 5% pension contribution, employee assistance programme, flexible working, among others.
Click [here](#) to find more information on our commitments and benefits.

Blagrave is a disability friendly employer. Please contact Valeria at hr@blagravetrust.org if you have any questions or would like to receive this document in a different format.

This role is subject to Enhanced DBS and two references. You must have the right to work in the UK.

About the Blagrave Trust

Blagrave is a funder that works alongside young people, communities and partners to drive systems change towards social justice. As we launch our new strategy in 2026, we are expanding our place-based work in the Portsmouth area and seeking a Community Engagement Manager who can build strong relationships, elevate local insight and help us co-create new youth-focused initiatives.

Role Purpose

The Community Engagement Manager – Portsmouth will lead our engagement efforts across the city, ensuring Blagrave is deeply connected with local young people, community groups, grassroots organisations, local institutions and strategic partners. This role is pivotal to shaping our local programme as we enter a new strategic phase. A core requirement for this post is deep knowledge of and connection to the Portsmouth area. We are explicitly seeking someone rooted in the city—either by living locally, growing up locally, working within local networks, or with a demonstrable track record of community relationships.

Success in this role looks like:

- A stronger Blagrave presence and impact at a local level
- Growing networks of trust and solidarity in the city
- Established partnerships, financial and otherwise, that support and cement Blagrave's strategic aims in the city
- Local young people facing injustice and their wider communities feel centred in our work

Key Responsibilities

Community Engagement

- Conduct or commission structured mapping of youth and community services and infrastructure, networks, gaps in provision, influencing structures and decision-making spaces, opportunities for partnership, service provision and innovation.

- Produce concise, accessible reports on local findings for internal and external stakeholders, presenting them where appropriate.
- Design and lead other community engagement activities as required, ensuring safeguarding and ethical practices are embedded
- Engage with communities in ways that minimise harm and uphold the wellbeing of everyone we work with.

Communications

- Draft and share relevant information about Blagrave with local stakeholders, using a tailored approach to suit different audiences, and accessible inclusive media; including printed and digital

Events

- Design, coordinate and deliver vibrant community events that centre youth and community participation, including a strategy launch event in 2026
- Manage logistics, partner involvement, young people's and community participation, and event promotion.

Establish and Support Steering Committee

- Convene and develop steering group to govern our work in the area
- Support the group to determine their own terms of reference and ways of working
- Ensure the voices of young people experiencing injustice are central in shaping purpose and priorities.
- Provide ongoing coordination, communication and relationship management.

Stakeholder Relationship Building

- Build and maintain trusted relationships with a wide range of local stakeholders, bringing a keen understanding of power dynamics, including youth organisations, community groups and grassroots leaders, local authority teams, schools, colleges and educational partners, funders and voluntary sector networks, young people and community members
- Represent Blagrave locally, increasing our visibility and ensuring our work is informed by community insight.

Contribute to Blagrave's Learning and Strategy

- Feed local intelligence and insights into Blagrave's wider programme.
- Work closely with colleagues across the organisation to explore partnership or funding opportunities aligned with our strategy.
- Capture learning, monitor progress and report back regularly.

General

- Represent the Blagrave Trust externally at meetings with partners, contractors and peers as required.
- Show an active commitment to anti oppressive and anti-racist practices including attending organisational training and reflection sessions to implement into your work and Blagrave's wider work.
- Attend regular training to support learning and development.
- Provide general support across Blagrave where additional capacity is needed.

Person Specification

We're looking for someone who lives and breathes Portsmouth - who has first-hand experience of its neighbourhoods, youth spaces, community leaders and institutions. You'll be a natural connector who builds trust quickly and genuinely, with a deep commitment to anti-oppressive practice and to creating spaces where young people feel seen, heard, safe, and equipped to tackle the injustice they experience. You'll bring curiosity, humility and care; listening before you act, valuing diverse lived experience, and willing to be led by the community.

Essential	Assessment stage	
	Application	Interview
Experience in youth work or youth engagement with young people experiencing injustice / oppression.	X	X
Strong alignment with our values and approach	X	X
Deep understanding of social justice and power dynamics in relationships		X
Deep roots in the Portsmouth area, demonstrated through residency, long-term work experience, cultural familiarity and/or strong connections to local networks.	X	X
Proven ability to build and maintain meaningful, values-led partnerships.	X	X
Exceptional community engagement and relationship building skills.		X
Experience in convening groups, hosting conversations and creatively facilitating collaborative processes.	X	
Ability to design and deliver vibrant events with attention to inclusion, accessibility and anti-oppressive practice.	X	
Strong organisational, planning and project-management skills.		X
Clear communication skills across written, verbal and digital formats.	X	
Independent working style with ability to self-manage.		X
Understanding of safeguarding policies and practice, with experience of escalating safeguarding concerns.		X

Desirable	Application	Interview
Awareness of local authority structures.	X	
Experience managing budgets or contributing to financial decision-making in a collaborative and transparent way.	X	
Experience with mapping exercises, community research or local intelligence gathering.	X	X
Familiarity with trust-based philanthropy and participatory grantmaking.		X
Understanding of community asset development	X	

How to Apply

Please apply in writing by submitting a brief CV and a covering letter (no more than two sides of A4) outlining what you would bring to the role. Please refer to the job description and respond to the person specification when preparing your application.

Deadline: Sunday, 8th March at 23.30.

How to apply: Send your application to hr@blagravetrust.org by the deadline above. Please also complete our **equal opportunities form**.

For questions about the role please contact our Head of Communities and Partnerships
Marie Benton at marie@blagravetrust.org.

Interviews are likely to take place on **Tuesday 24th March 2026**. We hope interviews will be in person, in our offices in East London.

Our Commitments

We are committed to anti-oppressive practice, equity, and wellbeing – for our partners, communities, and our own team. We especially welcome applications from people with lived experience of the issues we work on. As a disability-friendly employer, we are committed to ensuring our recruitment process is accessible and will offer an interview to candidates who declare a disability and meet the minimum criteria for the role. We are committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk, to promoting the welfare of adults, and keeping all those who come into contact with our work safe from harm. Please see our **Safeguarding and Equity Statement** [here](#).

We will only ask an individual to provide details of sensitive information, including convictions and cautions, that we're legally entitled to know about. Most of our staff and volunteers will be in positions of power and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check must be completed by anyone who meets government's criteria. We don't want this to be a barrier to those who have the potential to add great value to the work we do. If you have any questions regarding DBS check, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Valeria Tavares, at valeria@blagravetrust.org.

All information disclosed for the purposes of employment or consultancy will be used for the sole purpose of assessing whether an individual is suitable and appropriate for a specific role and/or if any arrangements around supervision and support might be required. All information gathered as part of our recruitment processes will be treated sensitively, with confidentiality strictly maintained, and according to our Privacy and Data Protection policy. Our **Safer Recruitment Policy** can be found [here](#)