



JOIN OUR MISSION

FOR CHILDREN AT RISK ON THE STREETS

YOUTH PRACTITIONER – LONDON
RAILWAY CHILDREN – RECRUITMENT PACK

children RAILWAY
No child lost to the streets



WE BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD CAN THRIVE, AWAY FROM A LIFE ON THE STREETS

Founded in 1996, Railway Children has dedicated over a quarter of a century to developing outstanding practice and services for street-connected children. Across India, Tanzania and the UK, hundreds of thousands of children are lost and alone on streets and public transport. As we embark on our new strategy to 2030, we have ambitious plans to ensure no child is left behind, wherever we work.

Every year, British Transport Police identify around 10,000 children at risk on the UK rail network. It offers young people a means to escape whatever they are running from and a place of shelter that feels safe.

However, public transport can also deliver them to danger...

With strong relationships across the UK rail industry, Railway Children applies contextual safeguarding principles to make sure someone is on hand to intervene early and protect children before they come to serious harm.

Our Youth Practitioners create turning points in these young people's lives that help them on a path to a better future.

Together we can make our transport system a safe place for everyone.

WHO WE ARE



Our Mission

To safeguard children at risk of being lost to the streets by empowering families, communities and partners to create lasting change, ensuring every child can reach their full potential.



Our USP

We are leaders in protecting the rights of street-connected children. We work with transport networks to reduce risk, intervene early and safeguard children before they face serious harm.



Our Goal

By 2030, we will have refined and enhanced our direct work to protect children and to demonstrate effective, impactful and scalable interventions that influence systemic change.

WILL YOU JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY?



WHAT WE STAND FOR

We stand for children

- The children who don't have a voice.
- The invisible children.
- The children struggling to survive on the streets around the world every day.
- The generations of children suffering repeated cycles of abuse.

**WE STAND FOR CHILDREN,
THEIR CHILDHOODS
AND THEIR FUTURES!**

These five values
guide our work



NEVER GIVE UP

Face challenges head on.



HAVE COURAGE

Push boundaries.
Think big.



EARN TRUST

Be honest. Always act
with integrity.



SHOW COMPASSION

Be kind and show
respect to all.



NURTURE TALENT

Encourage growth.
Enable others.



THE ROLE

YOUTH PRACTITIONER

Department: UK Programme

Location: Applicants must reside in one of the following boroughs, Croydon, Lewisham, Greenwich or Southwark.

Responsible to: Youth Practice Service Manager (East)

Responsible for: N/A

JOB PURPOSE

Work as part of a dynamic team delivering our UK Programme, in partnership with British Transport Police (BTP) and the UK rail industry. Provide direct support to children aged 10-17 identified as vulnerable, and work with rail industry partners to reduce risks to young people on the rail network.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Direct Support Work

- Actively seek to engage young people referred to the service in a range of short-term and long-term interventions to reduce the risk of further harm.
- Hold a caseload of young people aged 10-17yrs and deliver face-face, tailored support in the community on a 1:1 basis.
- Where necessary, provide practical and emotional support to the families/carers of young people receiving support.
- Conduct yourself in accordance with the Railway Children Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, to ensure the safety of young people and vulnerable adults.
- Assess the risks and needs of young people you are supporting in order to plan interventions and provide structured support.
- Work with young people to address issues such as personal safety, running away/going missing, county lines, exploitation, mental health, relationships, communication, self-esteem, and well-being.
- Make appropriate onward referrals, signpost young people to support services and positive activities, and identify creative solutions to challenges faced by young people.
- Work with other professionals to advocate on behalf of young people and their families, ensuring their safety and wellbeing always remains central.
- Record all interventions and contacts in a timely manner according to Railway Children's management information systems.
- Follow Railway Children's case management system to ensure individual goals and outcomes are set and measured.
- Support with the delivery of awareness-raising sessions to groups of young people.
- Travel independently across the agreed area to provide face-to-face support, often covering multiple areas in one day.
- Work flexibly outside of office hours as agreed to provide the support needed.
- This role will involve working some unsocial hours including evenings/weekends and occasional overnight stays.

Outreach Role

- Work closely with British Transport Police and rail industry colleagues to ensure young people at risk are identified and receive support.
- Occasionally take part in patrols and awareness-raising events in railway stations and other public spaces to support the identification of children at risk
- Promote the message of child safeguarding to colleagues in other organisations and sectors, and to the general public.
- On occasion help to deliver information sessions to external partners.

Organisational Relationships

- Responsible to the Youth Practice Service Manager who will provide day to day support and supervision.
- Work with and support Railway Children colleagues, both within a small local team and within a wider UK team including occasionally supporting fundraising, marketing and community events.
- Attend staff development days and face-face meetings in various UK locations as required.

General duties (all staff)

- Uphold and work within Railway Children's policies and procedures.
- Conduct yourself in accordance with the Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct in your personal and professional life – which includes reporting suspicions of child abuse or any other breach of these policies.
- Actively promote and embody Railway Children's core values across the organisation and partners.
- Travel to Railway Children's field operations as and when required.
- Undertake any other duties, as appropriate to the post, as delegated by the line manager.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience

- Experience of providing planned, structured support to vulnerable young people and families in 1:1 settings.
- Experience of trauma-informed practice and child safeguarding.
- Track record of developing relationships with a variety of organisations to support the needs of vulnerable young people and families and advocate on their behalf.
- Experience and understanding of case management including assessment, action planning and reviews.
- Experience and application of health and safety, risk management and data protection procedures.

Education/Qualifications

- Relevant qualification in an appropriate discipline e.g., youth work, social care etc.

Knowledge and Skills

- Ability to proactively engage young people and families who are experiencing challenging circumstances.
- Able to handle sensitive and confidential issues with tact and diplomacy.
- Ability to be creative and find positive solutions to problems.
- Knowledge and understanding of the issues facing vulnerable young people at risk on the transport system.
- Strong understanding of child protection and safeguarding processes.
- Excellent written, verbal and presentation skills.
- Good IT skills (Excel, Word etc.) and experience of using databases.

Aptitude

- Ability to network and form positive relationships with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders.
- Solution-oriented and flexible with the ability to work proactively.
- Ability to form positive teamworking relationships, including remotely.
- Ability to work independently and using your own initiative, following Loneworking Procedures and risk assessments for agreed activities
- Demonstrable commitment to and the ability to uphold and promote Railway Children's core values.
- Demonstrate a consistent ability to follow Railway Children's Code of Conduct and Safeguarding policy.
- This role will be subject to an Enhanced DBS or PVG check (Scotland) and BTP vetting process.

We welcome and encourage applications from candidates with a diverse range backgrounds and lived experience. A criminal history, that is unrelated to any risk of harm to children, will not automatically preclude a person from being or remaining employed.



A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

THE BENEFITS

As well as helping some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, there are some great perks if you're lucky enough to work for Railway Children.

Project visits

Where possible, we encourage our staff to visit our projects and experience the work we do. That could be here in the UK, in India or East Africa.

Time out

You will start with 25 days holiday per year to recharge the batteries. After three years this will increase by an extra day per year until you reach a very relaxing 30 days leave.

Pension

We offer a pension contribution of 6% of annual salary.

Birthday leave

One additional day of annual leave within the month of your birthday.

'Railway Children Day'

We might not be able to fund a Christmas party but because our Trustees value what we do, they grant an additional day per year where the office is closed, usually around Christmastime.

A culture we're proud of

Driven by our CEO, family values are at the heart of our culture and make Railway Children an incredible place to work. As well as a flexible working environment, it's one of the reasons why our staff retention is so impressive.



OUR PEOPLE PROMISE

All that we can achieve as an organisation is only possible because we have dedicated, skilled and courageous people. Their tenacity, passion and compassion create a culture that enables us to deliver incremental value beyond the resources we could ever have available to us. We know this, we witness it every day and therefore we strive to create an organisation that values them and their contribution.

As we set out to achieve life saving change for vulnerable children, we make our people a promise:



We will ensure diversity and inclusion, following transparent, fair and rigorous recruitment processes that attract and encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates.



We will support new people to fully settle into their new role and our organisation by providing a structured induction and integration programme.



We will work with our people to identify their career and development goals and facilitate opportunities for growth.



We will develop and implement a wide range of initiatives that ensure that our people are well-managed, supported, cared for and feel valued, listened to and included.



When people leave, we will listen and learn and seek leavers to be ambassadors for Railway Children.



STILL INTERESTED?

HOW TO APPLY...

To apply for this position, please complete the application form and return it to programmejobs@railwaychildren.org.uk. Please include job title applied for in email subject. Please note that Railway Children will only accept applications made using this application form and will not accept CVs, academic certificates or covering letters.

Closing date: Wednesday 9th September 2026

First online interviews to take place week commencing 14th September 2026

Second interviews (face to face) to take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2026

At Railway Children, we are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all those who come into contact with us in our work.

We follow a range of procedures to ensure that only those who are suitable to work with children and vulnerable people are recruited to work for us. This post is subject to a range of background and reference checks including criminal records check.

Due to the number of applications often received, only those to be invited for interview will be informed of the outcome of their application.

Applicants who have not heard within two weeks of the closing date should assume they have been unsuccessful.

THANK YOU.