

Freelance Support Worker in PRUs

Location: Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) / Schools in Hackney

Contract: Freelance

Age Groups: 13-19 years

Time: Day time, weekdays. Specific times to be confirmed. Sessions last up to 2 hours and will be booked in 6–12-week blocks.

Pay Rate: £75 per session (including planning and debrief)

Interactions Project Overview

The Interactions project is aimed at supporting young people aged 13-19 who are at risk of exclusion or who have already been excluded from mainstream education. Through the power of theatre, the project seeks to provide a creative outlet for personal expression, boost self-esteem, and enhance communication and social skills, while fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion. The project will engage students in theatre-based activities designed to explore personal challenges, develop new skills, and build emotional resilience. This will support their re-engagement with education and will also encourage them to stay in school.

The Role

As a Support Worker for the Interactions project, you will play a crucial role in supporting young people as they participate in theatre workshops and performances. Your role will involve providing individual and group support, helping to facilitate a positive and engaging environment, and offering practical and emotional guidance to students throughout the project. The focus will be on empowering students to express themselves through theatre, build confidence, and develop essential life skills.

Key Responsibilities

- **Facilitate Theatre Workshops:** Assist in the delivery of theatre-based activities, supporting young people as they engage in exercises that promote creativity, self-expression, and teamwork.
- **Provide Emotional and Pastoral Support:** Work one-on-one with students to help them manage any emotional or behavioural challenges, offering support where needed to ensure full participation in the project according to the lead facilitator's direction.

- **Encourage Personal Development:** Promote the development of life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution through theatre exercises and group activities.
- **Behavioural Management:** Help students manage and channel their behaviour in positive ways, using theatre as a tool for engagement and growth. Ensure a safe, respectful environment for all participants.
- **Build Positive Relationships:** Establish strong, trusting relationships with students, working to understand their individual needs and challenges. Act as a mentor, helping to build their confidence and resilience and encourage them to access out of school activities.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with both Immediate Theatre and school staff, to ensure the success of the project and the wellbeing of students.
- **Monitor Progress:** Provide feedback to the project lead and contribute to regular evaluations.
- **Safeguarding:** Ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students participating in the project. Be vigilant in reporting any concerns related to safeguarding in line with the organisation's policies.

Person Specification

- **Experience** of working with young people ideally in PRUs or similar educational settings, particularly those at risk of exclusion.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Ability to build rapport with young people, especially those facing social, emotional, or behavioural challenges. Understanding of the unique challenges faced by young people in PRUs and a compassionate approach to working with them.
- **Strong Communication Skills and Teamwork:** Ability to work as part of a team and communicate with other staff members in a supportive and constructive manner.
- **Knowledge of Theatre Arts:** A strong interest or experience in using theatre or the arts as a tool for personal development, expression, and learning.
- **Safeguarding Awareness:** A good understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures, with the ability to respond appropriately to any concerns.
- **Motivated and passionate** about making a difference in the lives of young people.
- **Creative and enthusiastic**, with the ability to engage and inspire young people through theatre.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and letter outlining why you are interested in the post and what skills you would bring to the organization. Please note that we are happy to receive this letter in the form of a video (up to 2 minutes long).

Please send to recruitment@immediate-theatre.com marked Interactions Support Worker.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to creating an inclusive and diverse team.

If you have any questions, please contact Charmain Humphrey on 07525892953

Application Deadline: 7th April

First stage interviews: 11th April (online)

Second stage interviews: TBC

Start Date: May 2025