

Appointment Details

Head of Engagement

Starting salary £50,515



Message from our CEO

ROSS HENDRY

Two years ago, Spurgeons Children's Charity celebrated its 150th anniversary. This marked an important milestone in our charity's history, but is also the foundations of our blueprint for the future.

Though the nature of our work has very much changed over the years, the need for our work is as relevant today as it was then; whilst our rich history and heritage still very much underpin all that we are and all that we seek to do.

Today, we are working with some of the most vulnerable children and families across the country through the delivery of support and intervention services. A number of major contract wins has seen us expand our geographical reach further across England. This includes the ground breaking early years health and well being partnership with other leading charities and providers; as well as delivering family support services in 12 of the UK's prisons.

The new role we're appointing now will play an integral role within the charity, as we branch into new areas of work and further expand our reach. We are looking to build a team that strives to help us shape the next chapter of our story. Our values of being inclusive, hopeful and compassionate go beyond marketing rhetoric. They are beliefs we hold true and we hope to see them embodied in all our staff and services around the country.

It goes without saying that we are looking for someone driven to deliver results, but we want more than that. We want to work with likeminded people who have the character to help us succeed and ensure we continue to live by our values at all times. They will need a combination of drive, motivation, passion and integrity, to help ensure we can deliver on our vision to give a hope-filled life to every child.

If this sounds like you then we would like to hear more about you and the role you could play in shaping the next part of our story.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Hendry
Chief Executive





About Spurgeons Children's Charity

Spurgeons is a Christian children's charity, providing support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families across England. Our vision is to give every child the opportunity of a hope-filled life.

We believe that no child should face abuse, neglect or uncertainty. Through the delivery of support and intervention services and by speaking up on behalf of those who need us most, we give vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families the chance they need for a better present and more hope-filled future.

In the last year, we have made a real difference to the lives of almost 3,000 children, young people and adults and protected 1,200 from neglect, harm and abuse.

Our services ensure vulnerable children and families can access the help they need for a better future. We support them to cope with their difficulties and provide them with resources and support to find long lasting solutions to challenging problems.

We aim to influence change through speaking up on behalf of children and families who need our help. We do this through raising awareness of key issues; advocacy; and ensuring their voices are heard.

Over
4.1 million
children are living
in poverty in the UK
today, with around
400,000 classed
by child protection
service as being
in need.

Our History

Spurgeons Children's Charity was founded in 1867 as an orphanage for "fatherless boys" by the most prominent Christian preacher of the 19th century – Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Charles Spurgeon's practical response to the Bible's teaching was to provide orphaned and vulnerable children in London with shelter, education and the hope of a better future. 150 years later, his legacy lives on. Although the face of our work has changed, the need for our services is as great today as it was then and our vision and mission for children continues to be inspired and guided by our Christian faith. By keeping Charles Spurgeon at the heart of our identity and mission, it reaffirms our commitment to continue the work he started.

Our charity was founded after a woman named Anne Hillyard donated £20,000 to Charles Spurgeon, to be used to open an orphanage for boys. Her gift was the answer to Spurgeon's prayer and together they, with a team of associates, built a charity that continues to support some of the most vulnerable children and families in England.

As a result of Anne's donation, the Stockwell orphanage was opened in 1869. 10 years later, girls were welcome to Stockwell orphanage. By the time the girls' dormitories were complete there were 500 children living here.

Even after Spurgeon's death, his work to improve the lives of children carried on in the orphanage. The children had special occasions to look forward to, such as Founder's day to celebrate the birth of Charles Spurgeon (19 June 1834). They even had a visit from the Duchess of York, who later became the Queen Mother.

When WWII was announced in 1939 the children living at Stockwell orphanage had to be evacuated. The majority of the children were moved to St. David's in Reigate, Surrey.

In 1951 the home in Birchington, Kent, was opened and became the new children's home for Spurgeons. By 1953 all of the children were relocated here. It remained open until 1979, when children were sent to smaller homes or foster families.

From 1991, we undertook international work – supporting vulnerable children in Romania,

Kenya, Nigeria and Moldova with the support of churches across the country. Our work in these areas was handed over to local projects and charities in 2011, while we focused on a family approach to early help amongst our three main client groups (children, young people and families who 'are disadvantage or struggling to cope', 'carry emotional burdens and heavy responsibility', or 'have been, or are, at significant risk of harm/exploitation').

Today Spurgeons helps over 37,000 children and young people and over 64,000 parents and carers. Through the delivery of support and intervention services and by speaking up on behalf of those who need us most, we give vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families the chance they need for a better present and more hope filled future.

We also aim to have both a positive impact on our staff, who are integral to this work, and the communities in which we work.



Our Motivation and Values

As a Christian charity, our core values are important to us and we reflect them in everything we do. We expect all who work and volunteer for Spurgeons to identify with and embody our values of hope, inclusion and compassion. Each is rooted in God's word and demonstrated in Jesus's teaching and life.

Hopeful: We believe that every child deserves a happy and hope-filled life, full of potential.

We look forward to God's promise to bring justice, healing and peace in a new creation; we have certainty in this promise because of Jesus' resurrection.

Inclusive: We recognise every person as a unique individual, deserving of respect.

We know that every person is made in God's image; that God celebrated the diversity of creation; and we live in response to the incarnation of Jesus Christ who came to serve and serve all.

Compassionate: We provide support. We won't walk away, even when that means making tough choices.

We strive to be like Jesus, reaching out to the vulnerable, marginalised and exploited. His death that brings reconciliation between us and God motivates us to show compassion.

Our Vision

Our vision is to give every child the opportunity of a hope-filled life.

Our Mission

Inspired by our Christian faith, our mission is to improve the lives of families and children who are struggling to cope.



Role Description

Having responded well to sector changes in recent years, Spurgeons Children's Charity is justifiably proud of the difference we make to the lives of children, young people and families. Following a restructure, we have the opportunity for an experienced charity sector professional to join the Spurgeons team in a pivotal role and help us fulfil our vision to give every child the opportunity of a hope filled life.

The Head of Engagement post combines both operational and strategic level work. To succeed, you will need to be driven, with a positive forward-looking attitude. You will play a key part in our growth and diversification and help to further build our reputation and impact through the engagement of key supporter groups, individuals, organisations and institutions including Christian churches. This will be done by ensuring relationships are meaningful, beneficial and contribute to the sustainability of the charity's work and mission.

This role plays a key part in demonstrating the charity's integrity and impact to internal and external audiences, and is part of a leadership group that is expected to work collaboratively with one another to realise our charitable goals. This will be accomplished by consistently upholding our values, our Christian distinctiveness and lived out through exemplary leadership. The post holder will need to make efficient and focussed use of their own time and expertise, and ensure the needs and demands from those they manage are commensurate with what can reasonably be expected of them in their roles / at their level.

To perform well in this role you'll need:

- To apply your professional experience so far, adapt to this setting, to effectively lead and manage our engagement function (church partnerships, fundraising and marketing / communications activity)
- To be a coherent thinker, with financial acumen and good situational judgement skills, able to make sense of information quickly and take sound decisions
- To really want the job so you can play a part in the next chapter of our 150 year story.

NB. As a genuine Occupational Requirement - the post holder must be a committed Christian in line with the statements in our faith basis and ethos; and have the ability to lead Christian services or meetings and produce materials sensitive to different Christian traditions.

The role is central office based, (Rushden, East Northants), working predominantly 'office hours' with occasional evening and weekend work. Our current services portfolio includes work across England (including Norfolk, Kent, Sussex, London, Peterborough, Wiltshire and Birmingham). You will need to be able to travel nationally at short notice and adopt a flexible approach to ensure sound customer (commissioner) relationship management; and be an effective ambassador and advocate with external organisations.

Job Purpose

Promoting and demonstrating excellence across Spurgeons' key internal and external relationships (staff, supporters, Christian churches, institutions, organisations and groups, media and policy makers) that lead to our work having greater impact and effectiveness. This will be achieved by:

- Growing income through fundraising (individual giving, legacies, community, events, corporates) and integrated campaigns
- Increasing Spurgeons profile and influence across key audiences that drives greater awareness of the charity
- Creating strong clear internal communication channels and messaging that enables Spurgeons to become a charity marked out by the strength of its internal culture, missional focus and applied values (so that all staff have a common understanding of what it means to be part of a Christian Children's Charity)
- Multiply and strengthen our partnership with churches, Christian organisations and individual Christians through increasing prayer support, project collaboration, volunteering and giving
- Providing exemplary leadership that embodies Spurgeons goals and ethos



How to apply

If you're interested in helping us shape the next stage of Spurgeons journey, please email an expression of interest, with a CV and covering letter.

Your application should comprise:

- a full CV, including educational and professional qualifications, a full employment history showing the more significant positions, responsibilities held and relevant achievements
- a covering note of not more than one and a half pages summarising your proven ability related to the person specification

Please return to **recruitment@spurgeons.org**

The closing date for applications is 3rd July at 23.59

Assessment centre tests / interviews: w/c 08 and 15 July

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people we serve. This post is subject to necessary safeguarding checks including an appropriate level DBS Disclosure.

Please note if you do not hear from us within two weeks after the closing date we are afraid that you have not been successful on this occasion.

