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**Job title:** Advice worker – households in hardship

**Location:** London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames (Hybrid)

**Salary:** £31,423 per annum pro rata + pension contribution

**Leave entitlement**: 28 days per annum pro rata + bank holidays

**Hours:** 35 hours per week

**Duration:** 12 months

**Closing date for applications:** Monday 5 June2023 at 12 noon

**Interview date:** Week commencing 5 June 2023

**How to apply**: For more information and an application pack please visit us at

<https://www.citizensadvicerichmond.org/jobs/>

**About the role**:

We are pleased to offer you an exciting opportunity to join our advice team at Citizens Advice Richmond.

In response to the cost-of-living crisis, Richmond Council are funding us to deliver an advice project that supports residents with financial issues. This is a 12- month project.

You will work alongside our existing projects and services, which are already seeing many clients affected by cost-of-living issues. The role will offer holistic advice, responding to immediate need and hardship as well as working to find long-term solutions. You will offer advice about a range of issues, including benefits and debt and refer clients into our Manage Your Money team which offers advice on budgeting and energy efficiency schemes, and there will be an opportunity for you to shape the service offered.

This role will also develop an advice service within community settings to ensure we are reaching residents who may not be able to reach us on their own.

You will be responsible for addressing the advice needs of people who need support to maximise their income and/or reduce their expenditure. For example, you will help clients to complete benefit application forms, apply for grants on their behalf, and help them to reduce their debts.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to develop their advice knowledge and gain valuable project development experience.

We are a friendly and diverse office. We support clients across our community, including those with complex advice needs and aim to reach the most vulnerable and excluded in our community.

All local Citizens Advice produce their own annual report, but you can find out more [about the Citizens Advice network](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/) or download the latest national Citizens Advice [annual report](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/annual-reports/).

# **Advice Worker – households in hardship**

**Job pack**

Thanks for your interest in working at Citizens Advice Richmond. This job pack should give you everything you need to know to apply for this role and what it means to work at Citizens Advice.

In this pack you’ll find:

* Our values
* 3 things you should know about us
* Overview of Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Richmond
* The role profile and personal specification
* Terms and conditions
* What we give our staff

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| **Want to chat about this role?**  If you want to chat about the role further, you can contact Lorna Reid by emailing [lorna.reid@citizensadvicerichmond.org](mailto:lorna.reid@citizensadvicerichmond.org) |
| https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/rV1VVWtESnRAKSo3e13UMETr74uMYm9lmKs6dFFHdlb3XGEZc35rXp0iFmd31iU-rIFvyPOFHd4kMyJdlYti3PXVIC-MSurFNhQsHJju-Awy1zUs-wWpZd-GSaPZfsQlilu9xteE **Our values**  **We’re inventive.** We’re not afraid of trying new things and learn by getting things wrong. We question every idea to make it better and we change when things aren’t working.  **We’re generous.** We work together, sharing knowledge and experience to solve problems. We tell it like it is and respect everyone**.**  **We’re responsible.** We do what we say we’ll do and keep our promises. We remember that we work for a charity and use our resources effectively. |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/YD2WcOy-gr-26_A0DWW09BgqTpDqNjFUp2tza7MO4VNgpHTgSrc2v6FSsEV4uPbFWolJl-jrhtXZffr3rkY1htq4wq-FnAdKVlJs8Pwv9Nb7_AODROhWG1-xgu3rLmxJoQtzv0RP | **3 things you should know about us** |   **1. We’re local and we’re national**. We have 6 national offices and offer direct support to people in around 300 independent local Citizens Advice services across England and Wales.  **2. We’re here for everyone.** Our advice helps people solve problems and our advocacy helps fix problems in society. Whatever the problem, we won’t turn people away.    **3. We’re listened to - and we make a difference.** Our trusted brand and the quality of our research mean we make a real impact on behalf of the people who rely on us. |

**How Citizens Advice Richmond works**

Citizens Advice Richmond consists of several busy offices and operates on several outreach locations.

We run a multi-channel service so clients can contact us by email, webchat, telephone and face-to-face drop-ins.

Our staff consist of a diverse team of paid and volunteer staff from a variety of backgrounds.

We organise and host the Richmond Advice Forum and have formed close partnerships across the voluntary sector in Richmond.

You can see more of our work here: [Citizens Advice Richmond](https://www.citizensadvicerichmond.org/)

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| The Citizens Advice service is made up of Citizens Advice - the national charity - and a network of around 300 local Citizens Advice members.  This role sits our network of independent charities, delivering services from   * over 600 local Citizens Advice outlets * over 1,800 community centres, GPs’ surgeries and prisons   They do this with:   * 6,500 local staff * over 23,000 trained volunteers   Our reach means 99% of people in England and Wales can access a local Citizens Advice within a 30 minute drive of where they live. |  |

  **Overview of Citizens Advice**



**Role profile**

**Job Title:** **Advice Worker – households in hardship**

**Responsible to:**  Projects and Development Manager

**Immediate reports:** n/a

**Main Purpose of Job**

* You will work alongside our existing projects and services, which are already seeing many clients affected by cost-of-living issues.
* You will be responsible for addressing the advice needs of people who need support to maximise their income and/or reduce their expenditure.
* The role will offer holistic advice, responding to immediate need and hardship as well as working to find long-term solutions.
* You will offer advice about a range of issues, including benefits and debt and refer clients into our Manage Your Money team which offers advice on budgeting and energy efficiency schemes.
* This role will also develop an advice service within community settings to ensure we are reaching residents who may not be able to reach us on their own.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

**Advice**

• Provide a generalist advice service with particular focus on welfare benefits and debt by email, phone and face-to-face.

• Ensure that all advice conforms to the Citizens Advice quality standards.

• Maintain case records for the purpose of continuity of service, information retrieval, statistical monitoring and preparing reports.

• Work with our wider team and provide advice cover and support to colleagues when necessary.

• Ensure that all work conforms to our systems and procedures.

**Project development and partnership management**

• Develop outreach services within the community

• Contribute to team meetings and engage with discussions about developing, promoting and improving the project over time.

• Contribute to developing and maintaining great relationships with key partners such as council officers and the community and voluntary sector.

**Administration**

• Use IT for statistical recording of information relating to social policy and funding requirements, record keeping and document production.

• Ensure IT information assurance training is completed on an annual basis.

• Ensure that all work conforms to agreed systems and procedures.

• Provide statistical information as requested for reporting purposes on the number of clients and nature of cases.

**Learning and development**

• Keep up to date with legislation, policies and procedures and undertake appropriate training for gateway assessment.

• Identify own training needs and pursue appropriate professional development with the support of line manager.

**Other duties and responsibilities**

• Keep up to date with Citizens Advice aims, policies and procedures and ensure these are followed.

• Contribute to us being a positive working environment in which equality and diversity are well-managed, dignity at work is upheld and staff and volunteers can do their best.

• Assisting with our research and campaigns work by identifying policy issues and raising these with the R&C team.

• Abide by our health and safety policy and share responsibility for own safety and that of colleagues.

• Carry out any other tasks that may be within the scope of the post to ensure the effective delivery and development of the service.

  **Person specification**

1. Understanding of, and commitment to, the aims of the Citizens Advice service.

2. Understanding of the issues that people approach us about and what a good quality service looks and feels like for clients.

3. Ability to use listening and questioning skills to gather key facts and information in a structured way whilst conducting phone and/or in-person interviews.

4. Ability to give advice to clients on welfare benefits and debt issues (training can be provided)

5. Ability to prioritise own work to meet deadlines and targets.

6. Commitment to working flexibly and supportively as part of a team.

7. Strong interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written).

8. Understanding of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, including the impact of discrimination and disadvantage on our clients, as well as a commitment to investing in increasing your own awareness of EDI issues so you can contribute to making our organisation as equitable and inclusive as possible.

9. Ability to receive feedback and a commitment to reflective performance.

10. A Citizens Advice advisor certificate or experience working as a generalist adviser within our network or another advice agency is desirable.

**Terms and conditions**

- Permanent contract for 35 hours per week (excluding lunch break)

- £31,423 pa plus pension contribution

* **What we give our staff**

We offer a range of employee benefits, including generous annual leave, pension contribution, and training and opportunities to continue your professional development.

**Guidance notes for applicants**

**Application form**

Please complete your application and return it by post or email (as a Word document) no later than the closing date referred to in the advert. If you return your application via email there is no requirement to send a hard copy in the post.

CVs will not be accepted as a substitute for the application form, unless specifically stated in the advert.

The application form plays a key part in our recruitment and selection process. We use the information you provide about your skills, experience, career and education history to decide whether or not to invite you for an interview. It is important that you complete the application form as fully and accurately as possible, ensuring that you give specific examples which demonstrate how you meet the essential and desirable criteria for the role for which you are applying.

**Disability**

Please let us know if you require any adjustments to be made to the application process or would like to provide any information you wish us to take into account when we are considering your application. If you are selected for interview, we will ask you to let us know if you have any access needs or may require reasonable adjustments to the interview or assessment (if applicable) at that stage. Please be assured that we will be supportive in discussing reasonable adjustments with you at any stage of the recruitment and selection process.

**Entitlement to work in the UK**

A job offer will be subject to confirmation that you are permitted to work in the UK in accordance with the provisions of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996. You will be asked to provide evidence of your entitlement to work in the UK if you are successful and an offer of employment is made.

Please note that Citizens Advice Richmond does not hold a sponsor licence and, therefore, cannot issue certificates of sponsorship under the points-based system.

**Diversity Monitoring**

Citizens Advice Richmond values diversity and promotes equality. We encourage and welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates from all backgrounds. Monitoring recruitment and selection procedures is one way of helping us to ensure that there is no unfair discrimination in the way that we recruit people. To do this we need to know about the diversity profile of people who apply for posts at Citizens Advice Richmond. This information is given in confidence for monitoring purposes only and is not seen by anyone responsible for making recruitment decisions. However, if you would prefer not to answer any of the questions we ask, please leave them blank.

**Information, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities**

This is a key section of the application form which allows you to provide evidence of your experience, knowledge, skills and abilities that are relevant to the role as described in the role profile. Selection is based on an assessment of the evidence you provide against the requirements of the role as set out in the person specification. It is important that you tailor your response to clearly demonstrate how you meet each requirement. No assumptions will be made about your achievements and abilities.

Please provide one example for each requirement. You should choose examples of past experience that clearly demonstrate what we are looking for, and be precise about what you did, how you did it and the outcome or result of your actions. Please try to limit your response to each criterion to a maximum of 200 words.

A useful guide might be S.T.A.R:

* Specific – give a specific example
* Task – briefly describe the task/objective/problem
* Action – tell us what you did
* Results – describe what results were achieved

Please provide recent work examples wherever possible. However, do remember relevant examples from other aspects of your life, for example: voluntary or unpaid work, school or college work, family or home responsibilities, can also be given.

**Shortlisting outcomes**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview. Some positions may require additional assessments such as a practical task/test - further details will be provided if you are shortlisted.

**References**

All job offers are subject to the receipt of two satisfactory references: One should be from your current or most recent employer or line manager (if you are employed through an agency), or your course tutor if you have just left full time education. The other should be someone who knows you in a work related, voluntary or academic capacity. Both referees should be able to comment on your suitability for the role. References will only be taken up for successful candidates following interview

**We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination**



**CONFIDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM**

**Section 1**

Citizens Advice Richmond

94-102 High Street

Hampton Hill TW12 1NY

Email address: admin.hhill@citizensadvicerichmond.org

(Please put Recruitment in the email subject line)

**Closing date:** Monday 5 June at 12 noon.

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| Please refer to the **Guidance Notes for Applicants** before completing this application form.  We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination. We encourage and welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates from all backgrounds. Members of the recruitment panel will consider information you provide against the person specification for the role to decide whether you will be shortlisted for an interview. It is therefore essential that you complete the form fully and that you **clearly demonstrate** how you meet each point on the person specification. Please note that CVs are not accepted. | | |
| Candidate ref. number (for office use only): | |  |
| **Position applied for: Advice Service Team Leader** | | |
| Job title |  | |
| Location |  | |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal information and address for correspondence** | | |
| First name(s) |  | |
| Last name |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Postcode |  | |
| Telephone home |  | |
| Telephone work |  | |
| May we contact you at work? | | Yes / No |
| Mobile |  | |
| Email |  | |
| We will normally contact you by email, however, if you would prefer to be contacted using another method please let us know here: | | |

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| **Entitlement to work in the UK** |
| **To take up this post you must have the right to work in the UK.**  Please note that Citizens Advice Richmond does not hold a sponsor licence and, therefore, cannot issue certificates of sponsorship under the points-based system. |

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| **Criminal convictions** | |
| Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working for Citizens Advice Richmond – much will depend on the type of job you have applied for and the background and circumstances of your offence.  For some posts, an offer of employment will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. If this applies to the post for which you are applying, this will be noted in the application pack.  Please see Guidance Notes and Application Pack for further details. | |
| Have you had any previous convictions not regarded as spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974? | Yes / No |
| If YES please provide details of the offence and the date of conviction. | |

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| **References** | | |
| Please provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two people who may be approached for references. One of these **should** be your present or most recent employer, the other could be someone who knows you in a work related, voluntary or academic capacity. Both referees should be able to comment on your suitability for the post applied for. References will only be taken up for successful candidates following interview. | | |
| **Referee 1** |  | |
| **Name** |  | |
| **Address** |  | |
| **Postcode** |  | |
| **Telephone** |  | |
| **Email** |  | |
| In which context does this referee know you? | |  |
| **Referee 2** |  | |
| **Name** |  | |
| **Address** |  | |
| **Postcode** |  | |
| **Telephone** |  | |
| **Email** |  | |
| In which context does this referee know you? | |  |
| Section 2Information, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities | | | |
| **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** | | | |
| **It is essential that you complete this section in full. Please refer to the Guidance Notes for Applicants for further details.**   * Please explain and demonstrate how your experience, skills and knowledge meet the selection criteria for the post described in the **Person Specification (found in the Job Pack)**. * Please ensure that you address **all** the criteria on the person specification using the same order. | | | |

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| **Career history** | | | | | |
| Please include your current / previous employment (including job training schemes), voluntary work, community activities, school placements, time caring for dependants etc. Please put in date order, starting with the most recent. | | | | | |
| **Employer’s name and address and type of business.** | **State position held and outline briefly the nature of the work and your responsibilities.** | | | | |
|  |  | | | | |
| Dates: | From | | To | |
| Reasons for leaving: | | | | |
|  |  | | | | |
| Dates: | | From | | To |
| Reasons for leaving: | | | | |
|  |  | | | | |
| Dates: | | From | | To |
| Reasons for leaving: | | | | |
|  |  | | | | |
| Dates: | | From | | To |
| Reasons for leaving: | | | | |

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| **Educational history** | | |
| Please give details of educational qualifications you have obtained from school, college, university etc. | | |
| Subject | Level | Grade |
|  |  |  |

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| **Professional development** |
| Please give details of any professional qualifications, including membership of any professional bodies and any job-related training that you have undertaken. |
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| Declaration | |
| Data Protection Statement: I consent to this information being processed and stored for the purpose of recruitment and selection at Citizens Advice Richmond and if appointed, for the purposes of employment at Citizens Advice Richmond.  I confirm that to the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided on this application form is true and correct. I understand that if appointed on the basis of false information contained in this form, I may be summarily dismissed. | |
| **If you are sending your application form by email, please mark this box** ☐ **(as a substitute for your signature) to confirm that you agree to the above declaration.** | |
| Signed: | Dated: |

**Please return this form to**

admin.hhill@citizensadvicerichmond.org

Or **Citizens Advice Richmond**, **94-102 High Street** , **Hampton Hill TW12 1NY**

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| **CONFIDENTIAL APPLICATION FORM**  **SECTION 3**  **Diversity monitoring**  Please note this section will be detached before sending your application to the recruitment panel for shortlisting. |

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| **Job title:** |  | |
| **Candidate ref. number (for office use only):** | |  |

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| The Citizens Advice service is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality. We encourage and welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates from all backgrounds regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.  In order to achieve these aims we need to know about the diversity of people who apply to work in the service. Please help us by providing the information requested in the form below  **Data protection overview**  **If you are happy to provide it, we will use this information for the sole purpose of allowing us to monitor equality of opportunity and treatment as necessary to maintain or promote equality within Citizens Advice.**  **The information you give us will be kept securely, won't be shared outside the service and is confidential.**  **It will not be seen by anyone responsible for making recruitment decisions or have any impact on you directly.**  **If you are successful in your application and we require this information for other purposes, you will be asked to provide it separately - i.e. this form will not be used for other purposes.**  **If you would prefer not to answer any of the questions we ask, please leave them blank. If you would like us stop using the information you provide, please contact us.**  Thank you for your co-operation.  **The following information will not be seen by the recruitment panel and will not affect your application.** |

**Age**  
Which age bracket do you fit into? Put a cross in the relevant box.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Under 25 |  |
| 25 - 34 |  |
| 35 - 44 |  |
| 45 - 54 |  |
| 55 - 64 |  |
| 65 and over |  |

**Gender**  
What best describes your gender? Put a cross in the relevant box or write in a preferred term.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Female |  |
| Male |  |
| I prefer to use another term  Please tell us: |  |

**Sexual orientation**  
What is your sexual orientation? Put a cross in the relevant box or write in a preferred term.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Heterosexual/Straight |  |
| Gay Man |  |
| Gay Woman/Lesbian |  |
| Bisexual |  |
| I prefer to use another term  Please tell us: |  |

**Ethnic origin**  
How would you describe yourself? Choose **one** section (A to E) and put a cross in the relevant box within it.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A. White** | English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British |  |
| Irish |  |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller |  |
| Any other White background  Please tell us: |  |
| **B. Mixed/multiple ethnic groups** | White & Black Caribbean |  |
| White & Black African |  |
| White & Asian |  |
| Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background  Please tell us: |  |
| **C. Asian/Asian British** | Indian |  |
| Pakistani |  |
| Bangladeshi |  |
| Chinese |  |
| Any other Asian Background  Please tell us: |  |
| **D. Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British** | African |  |
| Caribbean |  |
| Other Black/African/Caribbean background  Please tell us: |  |
| **E. Other ethnic group** | Arab |  |
| Any other ethnic group  Please tell us: |  |

**Disability**   
A disabled person is defined under the Equality Act 2010 as someone with a ‘**physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on that person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities**.’

Do you consider yourself to be disabled under the Equality Act 2010?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | No |  |

*The information on this form is for monitoring purposes only. If you require any reasonable adjustments to be made in the recruitment process or at work subsequently if appointed, please make sure you tell us separately from this form. We follow the social model of disability which believes it is the barriers created by society which disable people. We will use reasonable adjustments wherever possible to remove those barriers.*

**Gender Identity**  
Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth? Put a cross in the relevant box.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | No |  |

**Religion or belief**Which group below do you most identify with? Put a cross in the relevant box.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No religion |  |
| Christian (including all denominations) |  |
| Buddhist |  |
| Hindu |  |
| Jewish |  |
| Muslim |  |
| Sikh |  |
| Any other religion or belief  Please tell us: |  |

**How did you hear about this opportunity?**

Please include details below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |