## Community Writing in Gloucester

September 2024

## Creative Leads for consultation phase 2024

We seek two experienced creative practitioners to act as Creative Leads for consultation about the next phase of our Community Writing project in and around the city of Gloucester. You can explore the work to date on our website [here](https://literatureworks.org.uk/projects/community-writing/).

Each Creative Lead will consult with two groups as follows: instigating an initial conversation with the group lead or convenor and agreeing a date for a two-hour session that combines creative activities with group consultation session. Drafting a short report for each group. We will supply a framework for the consultation element and for reporting. In return, we offer a freelance fee of £700 per practitioner (£350 per group) plus reasonable expenses.

**We wish to complete this consultation phase by late November – mid-December 2024.**

We seek practitioners who can demonstrate strong approaches to creative collaboration with community groups that will generate self-expression through words and stories.

Our definition of creative writing is broad and inclusive, including all types of creative expression through words, from short story and life stories, to poetry, spoken word, storytelling, performance and zines.

## About Community Writing

This strand of our work is a model with self-expression through words and stories at its heart, supporting community building and amplifying unheard, marginalised voices. The programme works with existing groups who are experiencing life challenges, ranging from addiction recovery to domestic abuse, or mental health difficulties arising from social isolation and precarious housing. We aim to support the objectives of the group, as well as promoting the wellbeing of individual members and the social cohesion of the group. To date we have delivered this work in Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth, testing and developing approaches to build a model which we can bring to other places.

As a guide, the Community Writing activities are loosely based on the concept of a creative writing short course, taking place during a 2-hour time slot over 5 consecutive sessions (weekly, fortnightly or monthly, to suit the usual pattern of the group’s meetings).

We recruit experienced local practitioners to lead the sessions, co-designing the activity with group at taster sessions before embarking on the series of workshops. This way, the creative, word-based activity can be tailored to the profile, experience and priorities of the groups we are working with. By co-design, we mean a process of listening and sharing that brings people together to make decisions, set their agenda and address their needs.

## The consultation role

We are looking for practitioners with experience of working with local community groups who can involve the members of those groups and their leaders/convenors in developing the offer in Gloucester. We want to hear from you about the groups you know and would like to work with.

We will supply a framework for consulting with group members about the challenges they face, the kind of word-based creative activity they would be interested in and why/how the opportunity could make a difference to their lives. We will supply a linked framework for consulting with the group leaders or convenors about the aims and benefits they would like to see from engaging with word-based creativity. The consultation will be made up of the following elements:

1. Identifying the groups to work with, agreeing and setting a date in October or November for the group’s participation in a ‘taster’ consultation session
2. Scheduling a ‘taster’ session for each group of up to two hours duration. We envisage the sessions taking this kind of format:
   1. Initial soundings about expectation and levels of confidence
   2. A series of short burst of ‘taster’ creative activities
   3. Group review of activities and discussion about preferred options for word-based creative activities
   4. Closing section re-visiting expectations and levels of confidence
3. Consultation with group leader about the above and about how creative writing can support the general aims of the group [could take place on a separate date].
4. Reporting to Literature Works using the template supplied by end November 2024.

## Future plans

The Gloucester phase of the project in early 2025 is funding dependent. We plan to submit bids to funders incorporating these consultation findings. It is our hope that we can then continue working with the groups involved in the consultation and with the practitioners who delivered it.

## How to apply

If this role would interest you, please email to [info@literatureworks.org.uk](mailto:info@literatureworks.org.uk) a short statement of up to 500 words about your experience of working with community groups in Gloucester and which groups you propose to work with on this project. Ideally, you’ll come to us with two groups you’ve worked with and who you believe would welcome this opportunity, but we do have some potential groups in mind otherwise. Please attach to your email a summary CV which includes contact details for two referees who we may contact prior to any contract offer. We will not contact referees without informing you first. **Closing date for expressions of interest is Sunday 13th October**

If we wish to follow up on your interest, we will arrange an initial informal conversation with you on Zoom and an interview in Gloucester on **Wednesday 23rd October.**