

Job Opportunity



Freelance Fundraiser (Arts Focused)

*Join us on our
exciting mission
to transform
lives!*



The Opportunity



Freelance Fundraiser (Arts Focused)

This is an exciting time to be joining DanceSyndrome where inclusivity and equality create a vibrant energised connected 'family'. We aim to maximise our impact on a big scale. We have bold ambitions to deliver an outstanding, collaborative, and high-quality programme of co-produced and co-delivered inclusive dance across the North-West, to develop a pathway of opportunities for people with learning disabilities from early years to adulthood and to develop a best practice social replication model.

At DanceSyndrome, we change mindsets about leaders with learning disabilities through a bold model of co-produced dance. Our direct impact creates hope for the future by growing confidence, building experience and providing creative opportunities in a pioneering way.

The multi award-winning charity was founded by Jen Blackwell, who has Down's syndrome, because she found it difficult to find opportunities in community dance that were accessible to people with learning disabilities.

DanceSyndrome's ethos is that disability should never be a barrier to following your dreams. All DanceSyndrome sessions are disability led, with people with learning disabilities taking visible Dance Leader roles to inspire people to see what can be achieved when we all become more inclusive.

We are currently looking for an experienced Freelance Fundraiser (Arts Focused) to join us.

About the role

DanceSyndrome is looking for a Freelance Fundraiser with experience of successfully securing Grant & Trust funding in the Arts sector. DanceSyndrome is a current Arts Council England 'National Portfolio Organisation, and we are looking to secure additional match-funding to support the development of our ambitious Artist Development Programme which champions emerging Artists with learning disabilities.

This role is ideal for an outstanding individual who is self-sufficient with a proven track record of identifying a wide range of suitable Grants & Trusts across the Arts sector, and who can write clear, compelling and creative funding applications which stand out from the crowd.

We are looking for someone who is highly skilled in researching Arts Funders and aligning funding criteria with DanceSyndrome's work. We are interested in multi-year funding where possible and attracting new large-scale Funders to support how we go deeper into our work and impact.

We have ambitious plans for the next two years, so we are keen to recruit someone who already has a strong understanding of the Arts sector and Access for people with learning disabilities.

The Organisation

About DanceSyndrome

DanceSyndrome is an inclusive and multi-award winning charity creating change for people with learning disabilities and transforming lives through dance in a unique, groundbreaking way which doesn't exist anywhere else.

Using our unique co-production methodology, we offer a broad programme of innovative dance, leadership, inclusion workshops and training for people with learning disabilities, whilst addressing health inequalities, social inclusion, prevention and transformation.

Over the last four years, the charity has experienced an exponential increase in demand, both regionally and nationally, so we are expanding our team to compliment the skills of our existing staff.

The Future For DanceSyndrome

This is a really exciting time for our charity with an ambitious Managing Director who who has led the organisation since 2021 and a pioneering Artistic Director who together make up the senior management team.

We are currently executing our bold strategy Vision 2030, with three key strands:

DanceSyndrome Vision 2030



To deliver an outstanding, collaborative, and high-quality programme of co-produced and co-delivered inclusive dance across the North-West.

- We will work with people with learning disabilities & professional dance artists side by side.
- We will work across our communities & online in collaboration with partners.
- We will work to the highest standards of inclusion, quality & artistic excellence.

To create a pathway of opportunities from early years to adulthood.

- We will focus on creating progression pathways, better life chances, health & well-being, fulfilling lives & employment for people with learning disabilities.
- We will provide consistent teaching practices through different age groups & different stages of dance progression.
- We will introduce Masterclasses, achievement goals & life skills development through to accredited leadership qualifications.
- We will provide performance opportunities for our Dance Collectives (Adult & Youth).

To develop a best practice model that others can replicate across the UK which embeds our values, maintains our quality & delivers on our mission to empower people with learning disabilities.

- We will develop a DanceSyndrome quality standard tool kit.
- We will identify & support like-minded organisations to adopt the DanceSyndrome model.
- We will work with these organisations to achieve the DanceSyndrome 'Approved Provider' quality standard kitemark.

Partnerships

Collaboration

Inclusion

Influencing

Sustainability



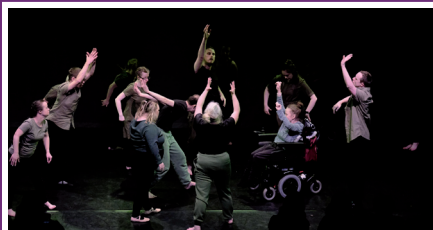
The Strategy

As part of the Vision 2030 strategy, we deliver our work in three different delivery strands:



Community Dance

- Weekly 'Everybody Dance' Classes (In person & on Zoom)
- Weekly 'Technique' Classes (In person & on Zoom)
- Commissioned Classes & Workshops
- Outreach & Leadership in Action Events
- "Dance by Example" Leadership Training
- 'Everybody Dance' Social Replication Model/DanceSyndrome Kitemark (In Development)



Artistic Development

- Dance Leader Professional Development Programme (Progression Pathways, Tailored Dance Development, Masterclasses & Life Skills)
- DS Collective Performance Company
- DS Youth Collective (Company of Youth Dancers)
- Dance Sector Partnerships (In Development)
- Dance Accreditations (In Development)



Training & Consultancy

- "Breaking Down Barriers" Workshop (for dancers in training/education, community dance artists, dance teachers in traditional dance settings)
- "Inclusion in Action" Workshop (for Businesses, Universities, Colleges & Schools)
- DanceSyndrome Consultancy (In Development)

In 2025 we are embarking on our Children & Young People strategy:

Children & Young People's Strategy 2030

By 2030, we will have an inclusive dance provision offer for all ages from age 4+ and run a 'test' project for early years 0-4

- We will primarily support children & young people with learning disabilities that otherwise may struggle to access dance in traditional settings.
- We will provide consistent teaching practices through different age groups & different stages of dance progression.
- We will create progression pathways, support health & well-being & enable learning & skills development.



- By 2028, we will have CYP provision in Preston, Chorley & Blackpool for age 7+, and 2 x Youth Performance Companies age 14+



- We will focus on individual progression pathways & provide key opportunities such as Role Models & Peer Mentoring support; Introduction to Leadership Skills Awards & Youth Steering Group Membership.



- Our organisational values will thread throughout everything we do: Inclusion & Equality, Collaboration & Artistic Excellence.

We will Play

We will have Fun

We will Include

We will Learn

We will be Brilliant



The formal Role Description follows with the application process on the final page.

DanceSyndrome is grateful to be supported by the following funders:



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Job Description

Position Title: Freelance Fundraiser with a focus on the Arts
Location: Flexible/Remote (England)
Status: Freelance (Hours are flexible)
Salary: £35.00 - £50.00 per hour depending on experience

Part 1: ABOUT DANCESYNDROME

DanceSyndrome transforms lives, creating change, opportunities, and joy for people with and without learning disabilities, their families and wider community using inclusive dance as a vehicle in a unique, ground-breaking way which doesn't exist.

This multi award-winning charity was co-founded in 2009 by Jen Blackwell, who has Down's syndrome and her parents. Jen found it difficult to find appropriate inclusive dance opportunities, dance leadership and performance training that were accessible to people with learning disabilities.

DanceSyndrome's ethos is that disability should never be a barrier to following your dreams. All DanceSyndrome sessions are disability led, with people with learning disabilities taking visible Dance Leader roles working side by side with professional Dance Artists. DanceSyndrome offers a broad programme of inclusive dance, leadership training and inclusion workshops addressing health inequalities, social inclusion, prevention, and transformation.

DanceSyndrome operates across the Northwest with extended reach across the UK, offering weekly inclusive dance workshops (in person and online), bespoke accredited leadership training and progression pathways development for people with learning disabilities, inclusion training and consultancy for businesses and exceptional performances by the DS Collective performance company at a variety of events including the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Part 1: ROLE PROFILE

MAIN PURPOSE OF ROLE:

We are looking for a Freelance Fundraiser with experience of successfully securing Grant & Trust funding in the Arts sector. DanceSyndrome is a current Arts Council England 'National Portfolio Organisation, and we looking to secure additional match-funding to support the development of our ambitious Artist Development Programme which champions emerging Artists with learning disabilities.

This work is part of our overall organisational strategy, Vision 2030.

Over the next two years, our ambitions for this work are to:

- **Continue to identify, nurture, amplify & champion diverse Artistic voices**
- **Deepen meaningful, accessible engagement with our communities and audiences**
- **Strengthen our organisation through excellence, accessibility, inclusion and sustainability**

Our current programme consists of:

- **DanceSyndrome's Youth Dance Company - the DS Youth Collective.**
- **A Weekly Artist Development Programme – EXTEND** - in which our Artists meet for five hours each week and receive year-round 1:1 support to define and work towards their own progression pathways
- Additional specific programmes focussing on Leadership, Choreography and Performance.

We are looking for an outstanding individual who is self-sufficient with a proven track record of identifying a wide range of suitable Grants & Trusts across the Arts sector, and who can write clear, compelling and creative funding applications which stand out from the crowd.

You will have exceptional written communication skills and be able to make the case as to why DanceSyndrome's work needs to be funded. You will demonstrate the transformational impact we make as an organisation, and the severe consequences and impact on people with learning disabilities, and their families of us not existing,

You will be highly skilled in researching Arts Funders and aligning funding criteria with DanceSyndrome's work. We are interested in multi-year funding where possible and attracting new large-scale Funders to support how we go deeper into our work and impact.

You will understand Budgets and be familiar with Access costs for people with learning disabilities.

We particularly welcome applicants from Global Majority, who identify as LGBTQIA+, People with Disabilities and Older People to apply for this role.

1 POSITION IN ORGANISATION: Reporting to Managing Director (MD)

2. SCOPE OF ROLE:

1. Fundraising (Grants, Trusts & Others) (80%)
2. Other Funding Sources (such as Sponsorship, Donations, Individual Giving, Other Giving) (20%)

Part 3: PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Minimum 3 years' experience in Grant & Trust fundraising & successful track record (in the Arts sector)
- Understanding of funders and funder requirements
- Experience of identifying and securing other funding from other sources
- Excellent communication skills (both written and verbal)
- Strong financial and budgeting skills
- Attention to detail
- Highly personable
- Superior organisational skills
- Good sense of humour and strong team player
- A flexible approach to working and experience of working positively in a diverse environment.

Desirable

- Working with people with learning disabilities.
- Previous experience of working/volunteering in a small charity/social enterprise.
- An interest in dance

Please note you will sometimes be required to work evenings and weekends.

To apply for this role, please send a covering letter and CV to Julie Nicholson, Managing Director – julie@dancesyndrome.co.uk

DanceSyndrome is an exciting and innovative organisation with an exceptional team, and strong values which are lived every single day.

Any role with DanceSyndrome will offer an individual the opportunity to experience a wide range of work and activities, and the environment to meet and work with incredible people who inspire, challenge and bring joy every single day.

No two days are the same. It's Brilliant and Bonkers but unwaveringly rewarding and joyous!

We offer flexible working, full training & on-going in role support including one-to-one professional development and annual objectives, team building and social events.

How to Apply



Equal Opportunities:

The DanceSyndrome family is filled with passionate and motivated people who are committed to creating a world where everyone can thrive and fulfil their potential.

Inclusion, diversity and equity are at the heart of our organisation. We are keen to hear from applicants of diverse cultures, perspectives and lived experiences. You do not need specific experience of working previously with people with learning disabilities, we are looking for people who believe in what we do and want to support DanceSyndrome to grow its impact and to help create a fairer, more inclusive and equitable society for everyone.

Please complete our anonymous Equal Opportunities Monitoring form when applying. This can be found at: <https://bit.ly/DSEqualOpps> or by scanning this QR:



To Apply:

To apply for the role, please send a CV and covering letter to Julie Nicholson, Managing Director on julie@dancesyndrome.co.uk with "Job Application" as the email subject. If you would like an informal chat about the role, please email Julie to arrange this.

We are very happy to accommodate any requests for reasonable adjustments. Please let Julie know as part of your application.

Please apply before **5pm on Tuesday 30th June**.

There will be a two-stage formal application process with interviews conducted online. Stage one interviews will take place on Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th July. Stage two interview dates TBC.



Registered Charity No:1152664

info@dancesyndrome.co.uk

www.dancesyndrome.co.uk

Main contact number: 07731 410662

