

Instructor – Northern England

Location:	Home based/remote, with regular travel using a company vehicle
Hours:	Full time (35 hours per week, Monday to Friday)
Salary:	£23,900 p.a dependent on experience
Closing Date:	Noon on Monday 17 February 2025

A specific region in the North of England will be confirmed with the successful applicant depending on their location, but the role will include frequent travel across the North of England and to our head office in Banbury.

You'll be required to occasionally work outside of core hours to meet the needs of our clients and their dogs. A vehicle will be provided for work use, as well as a uniform and equipment.

Full training and continuous personal development (CPD) is provided and available.

A Week In The Life

It's **Monday**, and you have a busy week ahead. Your role involves a lot of driving, and your total daily travel time between appointments can be anything from 1-4 hours. You start your day with client calls and checking emails and then travel to a client/dog placement visit. This is a new partnership so you're checking the dog's taskwork progress in the home and introducing supermarket access, with the client using their self-propelled chair. You then travel back for a virtual team meeting with your instructor colleagues.

On **Tuesday**, you have a matching visit where you're meeting the trainer and dog at the home of a potential client. You discuss the match and where we feel the dog meets the client's need and vice versa. You support the client in taking the dog for a short lead walk in the local area and give guidance on how best to support the dog and which cues to use etc. You also observe the dog's behaviour and the client's handling style and ability to follow instructions. You complete a matching form with details of the visit and it's good news – you and the trainer collaboratively recommend that we move forward with a match. In the afternoon, you complete the matching paperwork and plan an approximate placement date.



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It's **Wednesday** already and you have two routine aftercare visits to complete today, which are both annual visits for established partnerships. Your morning visit takes place in the client's home and local park, focusing on leadwork and then after driving for thirty minutes, you arrive at your second visit, where you meet the client in a shopping centre to advise on public access and how to settle the dog in a coffee shop.

Thursday morning starts with an online panel meeting where you discuss new client applications with the instructor team and training support dept and review the needs, goals and expectations of each applicant and make plans to move things forward. You then have a 121 online with your line manager, where you take time to chat through how you're feeling, how your week is going, and discuss any aspects you need support with. You spend some time responding to emails before travelling to an applicant home assessment. Here you'll build rapport with the applicant, complete an assessment form, which explores aspects such as their goals with a dog, physical needs, regular environments and the taskwork they hope will work for them. When you return home, you write up your notes and submit the form for review at the next panel meeting.

It's **Friday** and you're finishing your week by travelling to a client/dog placement visit. It's a new partnership where you introduce train travel at the local station. After driving home, you have a Teams call with a client and an OT volunteer to review the equipment used for treating the dog following a trial. You then have a client phone call – it's another established partnership and they need advice on introducing a door pull in their workplace. You round off your day with some admin, which include writing up visit notes and diary planning.

About The Role

This role is an opportunity for you to fulfil your dream of teaching, working with and maintaining the wellbeing of a wide range of dogs, specifically supporting those that become life changing assistance dogs.

As an Instructor, your role focuses on building the relationship between a client and their dog to help realise the client's independence and life aspirations without compromising the needs of the dog. This is a fantastic opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds who have a variety of needs, personalities and personal



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experiences, and to help unlock their potential through our available services, which often leads to one of our assistance dogs.

About Dogs for Good

Inspired by the way her own dogs instinctively wanted to help, our founder, Frances Hay set up the charity in 1986. Frances's vision was to help disabled people by training assistance dogs to make daily life easier. In 2015 we changed our name from Dogs for the Disabled to Dogs for Good to reflect the wider community that we support.

Our groundbreaking work has shown us how dogs and the bond we share with them can lead to happier, healthier lives. Our work is bringing the best out of a person and dog relationship and we achieve this in many ways- some of these are:

- matching people with our highly skilled assistance dogs
- helping families make the most of the relationship with their own dog
- providing community-based support for groups of people who can benefit from a connection with our dogs
- working with research partners to advance our work and advocate for the wellbeing and inclusion of people and dogs who support them

About Our Workplace

Dogs for Good is dedicated to advancing the boundless possibilities of what a connection between people and dogs can enable – in making everyday life fuller, healthier and happier for everyone involved. We want to support more people to benefit from these connections and we have an exciting new strategy to expand our reach and impact.

Job Responsibilities

As an instructor, you will:

- Guide and support application enquiries to match a person's needs and aspirations to the services available across the charity.
- Assess clients in their homes to understand their physical needs and suitability for an Assistance Dog.
- Participate in the matching process of client to dog.



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- Deliver a specialist client-focused service to existing and new partnerships, providing teaching and coaching to help our clients realise their full potential with a dog.
- Participate in continued teaching and evaluation of our dogs throughout their life by providing ongoing support and guidance to our clients.

Skills & Experience

Essential:

- You are able to demonstrate credible experience and / or qualifications working with physically disabled adults and children.
- You have proven experience in understanding and resolving dog behaviour and be able to coach others to achieve solutions and goals.
- You are well organised and disciplined in your approach to achieving goals and planning your own diary.
- You are able to work with a high degree of personal responsibility.
- You have the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- You have the skills to develop relationships with colleagues, clients and supporters of the Charity.

Other Requirements

- You must be over 18 years of age.
- Accompanying dogs in the charity's vehicles is essential and a frequent aspect of the role, so a full driving licence is preferred but, where applicable, we will work with the chosen candidate to find alternative solutions in those instances where reasonable adjustments are required.
- As you will be working with vulnerable people, you will be required to undergo a DBS check.
- You are expected to have a good understanding of safeguarding issues and how they should be applied to the work of the charity and its partner organisations



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Our Benefits

- 25 days annual leave plus public holidays with additional for length of service
- Additional days off at Christmas
- Your birthday off (and if you don't celebrate or observe birthdays, you can still take a day off to do something meaningful to you).
- Generous employer pension contribution of up to 10%
- Group income protection plan
- Group personal accident insurance
- A supportive culture underpinned by The Promise:
 - Seek to understand
 - Respect all needs
 - Make positive connections

How To Apply

If you are interested in this role, please complete an Application Form and an Equal Opportunities Form and send them both to Sarah Knight, Office Manager, Dogs for Good, The Frances Hay Centre, Blacklocks Hill, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 2BS or via e-mail, sarah.knight@dogsforgood.org.

Applications for the vacancy will close **noon Monday 17 February 2025**

First interviews will be held on **Tuesday 25 and Friday 28 February 2025** via Microsoft Teams.

Second interviews will be held on **Tuesday 11 March** at Dogs for Good's Head Office in Banbury.

Please ensure that you are available for interview on these dates as they cannot be changed.



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