

Job Title: Act Locally Manager

Salary: £40,000 – £45,000 per annum (Full-Time, 1.0 FTE)

Contract: up to 3 years

Location: Based at our HQ in Frizinghall (Bradford Grammar School campus), with significant time spent in community settings across the Bradford district

Reports to: EALC Director

About EALC

The Education Alliance for Life Chances (EALC) is an independent charity dedicated to connecting Bradford's education system with health, children's services, policing, and leaders from across the public, voluntary, and community sectors. We work alongside policymakers and frontline professionals to support whole-system transformation—with schools and educational settings at the heart of change.

EALC is recognised as a catalyst for reform, using a **collective impact model** to bring together schools, public services, voluntary organisations, and academic institutions. Our partnership with Born in Bradford's Centre for Applied Education Research (CAER) enables place-based, evidence-driven policy and practice change.

Building on the success of the **Bradford Opportunity Area Programme (2018–2022)**, our mission is to sustain and scale progress so that every child has the opportunity to realise their potential. Our vision for 2040 is to enable major organisations across Bradford to work collaboratively with schools and early years settings, using evidence-based approaches to secure better life chances and social mobility for children and young people.

Read more: [BOA Lessons & Recommendations Report](#)

About the Role

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Manager to lead and grow our place-based initiative, Act Locally. This is a pivotal role that combines strategic partnership leadership with hands-on community development—ideal for someone who can operate confidently at both system and community levels.

You will shape the future of a growing organisation embedded in one of the UK's most ambitious place-based partnerships. As we transition from delivery to opportunity, you'll broker high-level relationships, influence cross-sector collaboration, and mobilise people and resources to drive systemic change. At the same time, you'll work directly with schools, communities, and local partners to co-create and implement solutions that improve outcomes for children and young people.

This role requires someone who thrives in fast-paced, evolving environments and brings a 'start-up' mindset to working in a small but ambitious team. You'll be equally comfortable facilitating strategic conversations with senior leaders and rolling up your sleeves to support grassroots initiatives in local neighbourhoods.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership & Partnership Development

- Lead the strategic direction and delivery of the Act Locally programme, ensuring alignment with EALC's mission and the 2023–2027 Delivery Plan.
- Broker and maintain high-trust relationships with senior leaders across education, health, local government, and the voluntary sector to drive place-based collaboration.
- Represent Act Locally in strategic forums and governance structures, advocating for systemic change and the integration of community voice in decision-making.
- Work with the EALC Director to ensure progress is captured and reported through the NHS Charities Together Innovation Grant, including contributions to the Steering Group and evaluation reports.
- Refine and scale the Act Locally model, including the development of a replicable 5-phase blueprint and an implementation toolkit for other areas.

Operational Community Development & Delivery

- Build and maintain strong relationships with local schools, community organisations, and residents to co-create and deliver locally relevant solutions.
- Facilitate regular convening partnership meetings in Act Locally areas, ensuring inclusive participation from across sectors and communities.
- Support the roll-out of Participatory Grant Making (PGM) processes in collaboration with the VCS Alliance, and ensure funded projects are embedded in local partnerships.
- Work closely with the School Health Hub Co-ordinator and Citizens UK to ensure the voices of children, young people, and families are central to all activities.
- Maintain a visible presence in community settings across Bradford, supporting grassroots engagement and ensuring feedback loops between communities and strategic partners.

Governance, Communication & Influence

- Ensure convening meetings are well-organised, inclusive, and aligned with local governance structures (e.g. Community Partnerships, VCSE networks, health and council forums).
- Communicate the aims, achievements, and impact of Act Locally persuasively to a wide range of audiences, including funders, partners, and the public.
- Work with partners to identify and agree on future priority areas for Act Locally, based on local insight and emerging needs.

Fundraising & Resource Development

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities to support the sustainability and growth of Act Locally.
- Lead and contribute to collaborative funding bids, working with internal and external partners.

- Build relationships with potential funders, donors, and philanthropists, and contribute to reporting and stewardship efforts.

Person Specification

We are looking for someone who brings passion, energy, and a collaborative spirit to the role. The successful candidate will have the following essential skills:

- Strategic partnership experience, including a proven ability to influence and align stakeholders across sectors (e.g. education, health, VCSE, local government) to drive place-based change.
- Operational community development experience, with a strong track record of working directly with residents, schools, and local organisations to co-design and deliver impactful initiatives.
- A deep understanding of community and partnership engagement, multi-agency working, and place-based collaboration.
- Exceptional relationship-building skills with schools and a range of multi-agency colleagues, including the ability to actively listen to young people, residents, and stakeholders.
- Strong communication and facilitation skills, with experience planning and leading convening partnership meetings.
- Experience in fundraising, including researching funders, bid writing, and reporting to a range of supporters.
- A solid understanding of community development methods and experience in facilitating community conversations for collective impact.

Please apply by sending a covering letter (max 2 A4 pages) and CV which clearly address each of the essential criteria in the person specification. Please email to:

kathryn@educationallianceforlifechnaces.org.uk

Working Environment & Expectations

- The role is based at our Head Quarters in Frizinghall, Bradford (on the Bradford Grammar School campus) but a significant proportion of your time will be spent working with community partners across the district.
- You must be willing to travel occasionally to conferences and meetings outside of the Bradford district (expenses covered).
- The role also requires occasional evening and weekend working (with time off in lieu provided).

Why Join Us?

Because you want to be part of something bigger. We are a collective impact charity driving long-term change across Bradford by focusing on what matters most—children’s education, health, and future opportunities.

This is a rare opportunity to help shape the future of a growing charity at the heart of one of the UK's most ambitious place-based partnerships. You'll bring your skills and personality into a close-knit team with big ambitions and a powerful network of partners.

As we move to scale-up, this role offers the chance to influence strategy, build deep relationships across sectors, and be part of a story that's bigger than any single programme. If you're energised by complexity, creativity, and community, we'd love to hear from you.

Success here isn't just measured in metrics—it's about real change in the lives of children and families across Bradford. It's about seeing schools, services, and communities working together in new ways, and knowing you helped make that happen.

At the heart of our work is collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to equity and inclusion. We bring together schools, health services, communities, and local partners to align efforts and amplify impact. If you're passionate about improving life chances, tackling inequality, and making a lasting difference, this is where you belong.

Join us in building a better Bradford—for every child.

Key Dates

- Deadline for applications: 5pm, Tuesday 28th October
- Interviews: Tuesday 4th November

Please note: If you have not heard from us by Friday 31st October, please assume that your application has not been successful on this occasion. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide individual feedback to candidates who are not shortlisted.

Further Reading

Please visit our website <https://www.educationalallianceforlifechances.org.uk>

[Act Locally Background and Context](#)

[Act Locally Conditions to Success](#)

[Act Locally: Keighley](#)

[Act Locally: Holme Wood](#)

[Act Locally: Manningham & Girdlington](#)

[EALC Delivery Plan 2023-2027](#)