



## **TVG Education Strategy Coordinator**

**Hours Per Week: 35**

**Term of Contract: 2 Years**

**Location: TVG, Lower John Street, Cork with some travelling necessary locally and regionally at points.**

**Salary: €47,000 per annum**

### **Background to the Role:**

The NTRIS STAR Education Pilot in Cork has been hosted by TVG since January 2020 with the aim of finding working models of practice to improve the outcomes of Traveller and Roma students in education. The current project has been extended recently to run until June 2024. TVG has employed both a Roma and Traveller Education Worker for the project and this team is supported by a Home School Liaison Officer along with co-management from Tusla Education Support Service (TESS). Together TVG and TESS work with 14 participating Schools, the Traveller and Roma students in these schools and their parents to highlight challenges and find opportunities to improve the education outcomes of these students and future Traveller and Roma students.

The Education Strategy Coordinator's role is divided into two areas of focus. Firstly they will oversee the day-to-day running of the NTRIS STAR project alongside their TESS colleagues and act as project leader for the 2 STAR Education Workers in TVG. The second focus of the role is leading out on broader TVG education policy, strategy and development work including exploring training and development opportunities, adult-education and apprenticeship courses for the Traveller community. This element of the role will involve collaboration with the Southern Traveller Health Network (STHN) and the Cork Traveller Education Strategy Steering Group along with the TVG Co-Directors and engage with a range of statutory and voluntary stakeholders in relation to Traveller Education

This post is partly funded under the NTRIS Star Project, Department of Education and Skills and through Access UCC, SOAR Project, Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH), Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

### **Job Description:**

#### **NTRIS STAR Education Pilot Project**

- To act as the Host Project Team Leader in the NTRIS STAR Education Pilot.

- To oversee the successful delivery of the NTRIS STAR Education Pilot.
- To be TVG point of contact and line manager of two Education Workers (one Traveller and one Roma worker)
- Arrange any training and development courses for the NTRIS team
- Oversee the development and delivery of an annual work-plan for NTRIS STAR project with the full team.
- To work with the Home School Liaison Officer for the Cork project and create collaborative working opportunities between parents of students and school staff
- Creating and coordinating universal interventions under NTRIS programme with the full STAR Project team in Cork.
- Overseeing the management of funding allocations for the NTRIS project with TVG.
- To create progress reports and communicate these to relevant parties such as the STAR steering committee and the TVG Co-Directors
- To attend the national STAR Project Team meetings as the TVG representative to ensure knowledge share, support across the pilot and the Cork Project.
- To assist the Traveller/Roma Education Pilot team to achieve their goals as set out in the Goals and Objectives Operational Guidance Document

### **TVG Project**

- Engage with the Cork Traveller Education Strategy Steering Committee (CTESSC) and lead the implementation of the action plan
- To assist STHN in supporting further opportunities for graduates of the Leadership Course and be TVG point of contact for that project.
- To keep up to date with any local or national development that would influence the Traveller experience of the current education system in Cork.
- To represent TVG on local and national education committees/working groups to continue to advocate for better outcomes in Traveller education.
- To prepare monthly reports on the work completed and work plan set for the future months to be communicated at TVG Board of Director meetings.
- To work with 3<sup>rd</sup> level and other education access programmes such as SOAR to ensure that TVG is participating with relevant education services and acts as a resource and advocate for Traveller education in Cork.
- To work with the TVG Administrator, Director of Advocacy and Director of Operations to ensure that all work is in line with TVG policies and structures.

### **Background to NTRIS STAR Project:**

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) 2017-2021

On 13th June 2017 the Minister for Justice and Equality launched the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) 2017 – 2021. The NTRIS is available to download from the Department of Justice and Equality website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c83a7d-national-traveller-and-roma-inclusion-strategy-2017-2021/>

The strategy takes an inter-departmental Government approach to improving the lives of Travellers and Roma in Ireland in practical and tangible ways. Departments have worked together to identify actions that can be taken to bring about a real improvement in the quality of life for Travellers and Roma. The strategy also aims to improve public service engagement with Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland. There are 149 actions in the strategy covering the themes of Cultural Identity, Education, Employment and Traveller Economy, Children and Youth, Health, Gender Equality, Anti-discrimination and Equality, Public Services, Accommodation and Traveller and Roma Communities. Key education-related actions in the NTRIS include:

**Action 10** – The Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla will develop proactive, early intervention education welfare supports to promote and support Traveller and Roma attendance, participation and engagement with the education system and retention to the Leaving Certificate or equivalent.

**Action 17**- The Department of Justice and Equality will fund Traveller community Groups to implement community-based supports to assist retention of Traveller and Roma children in the education system. The intervention and the supports to be provided will be designed in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs/Tusla, and Traveller interests.

A NTRIS Steering Group has been established to oversee the development and implementation of the NTRIS. The membership of the steering group includes: the Departments of Justice and Equality (DJE), Education and Skills (DES), Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), Tusla, and other relevant Government Departments and Agencies as well as Traveller and Roma representative groups and communities. The NTRIS Steering Group established a NTRIS Education Sub-Committee to oversee the implementation of the education specific actions of NTRIS.

The NTRIS Education Sub-Committee has established a 2 Year Pilot Programme to target Traveller and Roma attendance, participation and retention in specific Traveller and Roma Communities regionally.

Please see full guidance document accompanied with this job description for further details.