



## Writer in Residence Opportunity

### **Project Overview**

Writing on the Wall is delighted to announce, on behalf of the ReCITE project, an exciting opportunity for a Writer in Residence to work with the Community Innovation Team (CIT) at Aintree University Hospital to coordinate and deliver community-based creative writing projects, working with High Intensity Users (HIU) of Aintree University Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department. The primary objective is to support staff and patients who are high intensity users to engage in creative practice to tell their own stories, which will be used for publication or performance.

The ReCITE project (*Building Research by Communities to Address Inequities through Expression*) blends creativity with healthcare: focusing on building storytelling into community and health systems to address mistrust and promote wellbeing. The project has a wide range of academic and creative partners who will work in collaboration to engage people living in Liverpool, Knowsley, and South Sefton and will use the power of stories to promote health prevention and mental wellbeing in some of the region's poorest areas.

Writing on the Wall (WoW) is a pioneering organisation that harnesses the power of storytelling and creative writing to ignite change within communities. At the core of WoW's approach is the belief that stories have the ability to connect people, inspire empathy, and challenge ingrained prejudices. By bringing marginalised voices to the forefront, WoW creates a space for narratives that are often overlooked or silenced. Through workshops, events, and collaborations with writers, artists, and activists, WoW empowers individuals to share their experiences and perspectives, creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

### **Aintree University Hospital HIU Service**

Between May 2023 and May 2024 there were 3968 emergency department attendances at Aintree Hospital from patients with more than 5 attendances. 25% of those with 5 attendances or more at Aintree Hospital emergency department have no abnormality detected and just over 14% leave without being seen. These data suggest that for a significant proportion of these patients, the emergency department does not offer a solution to their problems, as most of their needs are of a non-medical nature, including past trauma, isolation, learning difficulties and personality disorder.

The High Intensity Use (HIU) Service is designed to help individuals who frequently rely on emergency services, addressing underlying social and health inequalities that contribute to their high usage. The service focuses on nonmedical factors such as poverty, housing instability, social isolation, mental health challenges, and deprivation. Your role as Writer in Residence will involve capturing these stories through creative writing, helping to amplify voices that often go unheard and contributing to the reduction of avoidable emergency department visits.

Toxteth Library, Windsor Street, Liverpool, L8 1XF

Tel: 0151 703 0020 Email: [info@writingonthewall.org.uk](mailto:info@writingonthewall.org.uk) Website: [www.writingonthewall.org.uk](http://www.writingonthewall.org.uk)

Charity No. 1098868 Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4675589

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## Position Details

- **Contract:** 16 hours per week for 9 months, with a review at 3 months.
- **Start Date:** Mid-February 2025.
- **Hours:** Flexibility required, as some sessions may take place during evenings.
- **Location:** On-site at Aintree Hospital and community settings, with occasional remote working when required.
- **Fee:** £450 per week plus reasonable travel expenses.

The first month of the role will include an intensive induction and onboarding process. This will involve:

- Visiting the Aintree Hospital department and meeting key staff.
- Orientation and briefing with Angela Derbyshire of Aintree ED.
- Undertaking safeguarding training.
- Attending Community Innovation Team (CIT) meetings.
- Shadowing HIU leads for Knowsley and Sefton.
- Visiting the Personality Disorder Hub.

## Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate and deliver creative writing workshops with HIUs to empower participants to share their stories and potentially alleviate some pressure on the NHS.
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals and researchers to amplify stories and address social inequalities contributing to high A&E usage.
- Produce creative outputs that inspire social change and raise awareness about critical issues affecting access to healthcare.

## Person Specification

The ideal candidate will have:

- Proven experience in creative writing across various forms and genres.
- Strong community engagement skills, with experience working with vulnerable groups.
- Knowledge of safeguarding policies and practices in a health or community context.
- Flexibility to adapt to evening work and evolving project needs.
- Commitment to social change through creative expression.

## Deep Story Leadership Platform

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The successful candidate will also have the additional option of taking up a funded place on the Deep Story Leadership Platform, an innovative Professional Development Programme delivered through AHRC StoryArcs, a programme to articulate and advocate for the role of Story Skills in addressing social issues and creative challenges. The Deep Story Leadership Platform will provide access to a Fellowship of Early Career Researchers undertaking professional placements with applied Story Skills. It will offer professional development and networking opportunities, helping members further their careers and make a difference in the world. This programme is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and is delivered through The Story Society, a research centre at Bath Spa University.

## How to Apply

To apply, please submit:

- An up-to-date CV.
- A cover letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining your relevant experience and suitability for the position.

Submit applications to [info@writingonthewall.org.uk](mailto:info@writingonthewall.org.uk) with the subject line "*Writer in Residence Application*" by **11:59pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Shortlisting will take place w/c 13<sup>th</sup> January, and interviews will take place w/c 20<sup>th</sup> January.**

