



RECRUITMENT POLICY for
PASTORS, MINISTRY LEADERS &
EMPLOYEES

RECRUITMENT & SELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

This document explains LIVEfree CHURCH policy on the recruitment and selection of voluntary Pastors / Leaders and paid staff.

It will be made available on request to:

Applicants for vacancies within LIVEfree CHURCH and will be used by Pastors / Governance Team who are responsible for recruiting voluntary Pastors, Ministry Leaders and paid staff, to ensure consistency.

All selection decisions will be based on skills, qualifications, experience and gifting.

2. Equality Commitment

- LIVEfree Church believes that person should be appointed in accordance with the belief / mission statements and code of conduct policy of the church.
- LIVEfree CHURCH promotes an ethos that is respectful of all persons.

3. Job Description

- When a vacancy arises a job appraisal will be carried out and the job description brought up to date.
- Job descriptions will be flexible and allow for reasonable adjustments to be made should persons with a disability apply.

The job description will include the following information:

- Title
- Overall role of vacancy
- List of principal responsibilities and duties (around 8 to 12 very brief statements)
- General duties such as attending internal meetings, representing LIVEfree CHURCH, preparing reports and statistics, undertaking training.
- Responsibility to work in a way that promotes an ethos that is respectful to all persons.
- Who the position is responsible to.
- The probationary period, usually being of a three month duration.

4. Person Specification

- The person specification is a statement of the specific skills, knowledge, experience and attributes required to undertake the tasks involved in the job. It will be used as a basis for selecting candidates to be short-listed and for the decision-making during the interview itself by providing known, appropriate, justifiable and agreed criteria.
- Criteria will be divided into those that are essential (candidates must have these) and those that are desirable (can be acquired after appointment).
- If formal qualifications are required and related to the job it will be stated in

the person specification listing.

- Full consideration will be given to all types and lengths of experience, including voluntary work experience.
- Applicant will have participated in LIVEfree church life for a minimum of six months before applying for ministry leader or pastoral roles. Where the position has been advertised externally, specific references will be required as per section 15. (References)

5. Advertising

Where posts are externally advertised, advertisements will be designed and placed to attract as wide a group of suitable applicants as possible. All advertisements will carry:

- LIVEfree CHURCH link to belief and mission statements
- Date of closing applications
- Highlight that 'personal data' will be kept confidential and processed for the purposes of determining their suitability to the vacancy.

6. Information to applicants

The following papers will be sent out to job applicants:

- Covering letter, including date of interview and named person who can discuss job with applicant
- Role description
- Beliefs and Mission statements
- Background information relating to the post, if relevant
- 'Help us get to know you better' form
- Details regarding working with children's check requirement
- Details of any additional material the candidate will be required to bring on the day, such as photo identification.

8. Selection Panel

- A panel and not an individual will make all selection decisions.
- There will be at least two people.
- Generally the panels will include the Pastor and another person with expertise in the job area.
- LIVEfree CHURCH pastor will provide briefings to the Governance Team.

9. Short-listing

- Short-listing will be on the basis of essential and desirable criteria that will be applied consistently to all applicants.
- Apply under the scheme, they will be guaranteed an interview, if they meet the essential.
- CV's may be included to give additional information, but will not be considered on their own without the appropriate form.
- Application forms may be completed in handwriting or by word processor and are available on request

10. Interviewing

- All questions at interview will relate to the person specification.
- Each candidate will be asked about the same main areas.
- The selection panel will prepare questions and agree who will ask which questions before the interview.
- All candidates will be asked about their commitment to LIVEfree belief and mission statements and how they will ensure their work promotes this.

11. Declaration of Interest

- If any of the selection panel know any of the applicants, personally or professionally, they should declare this to the rest of the panel. It will be for the panel to decide whether this could be prejudicial and whether that member should withdraw.
- Their decision should be recorded with brief reasons.
- In general personal knowledge of a candidate will not debar a panel member unless the applicant is a close relation or partner.
- If a panel member wishes to withdraw from the process, however, they should be allowed to do so and a replacement nominated.

12. Certificates and Qualifications

- Candidates will only be asked to bring certificates or evidence of qualifications where these are necessary criteria for the vacancy, or as evidence of identity of their commitment to learning and development.

14. Selection and Rejection

- Decisions about selection will be made in accordance with the person specification.
- An endorsement of the successful applicant will be given by the LIVEfree Lead Pastor.
- Once the person has been selected, and confirmed their acceptance, all unsuccessful applicants will be informed.

15. References

- A minimum of two references will be taken up on candidates who successfully complete the interview stage, but will only be referred to after interviews have taken place.
- They will be used to verify factual information and to support or deny the appointment of a candidate, not to choose between candidates.
- Where an applicant for a position is not a current member or participant of LIVEfree church, the applicant should provide an endorsing letter from their home church pastor, including their willingness to release them and have LIVEfree church become their new spiritual home, as per their contract to lead and serve in the body of Christ.

16. Pre-employment health checks

- If the selected applicant has taken considerable amounts of sick leave, not related to a disability in recent posts, or had to leave previous posts because of a sickness not related to a disability, the recruitment panel may decide to refer the applicant for an Occupational Health Assessment prior to confirming an appointment. In these cases, an offer of employment will not be made until the health check has been carried out and the panel is satisfied with the result.
- Past sickness, which is not recurrent, will not automatically bar candidates from selection.
- Where sickness is related to a disability, the panel will take this into consideration when considering adjustments that need to be made.

17. Recruitment of ex-offenders

- LIVEfree church uses Children's Guardian Service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust. LIVEfree CHURCH complies fully with the Children's Guardian Service requirements outlined for institutions.
- For those positions where a disclosure is required, all application forms, job advertisements and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a disclosure will be requested.
- At interview we ensure that if a discussion takes place on the subject of any offences, or other matter that might be relevant to the position, failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position, could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.
- Having a criminal record will not necessarily disqualify an applicant from working with LIVEfree church. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.

18. Retention of Information

- LIVEfree Church uses the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of disclosure information and its obligations under the Data Protection Act.
- All application forms, notes and disclosures relating to unsuccessful applicants will be kept confidentially for 6 months and then destroyed by secure means.
- This information will only be used in the event of any complaints or claims to employment tribunals or in circumstances where funders require us to keep this information for audit.
- Disclosure information is not kept on an applicant's personnel file and is kept separately and securely, with access limited to those who are entitled to see it.

- LIVEfree CHURCH recognises it is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone not entitled to receive it.
- However, we may keep a record of the date of issue of a disclosure, name of subject, reference number and decision taken.

19. Monitoring of recruitment information

- The officer responsible for the recruitment will ensure the: “Help us get to know you better” sheet is completed and attached.
- Any relevant qualification certificate is included for safe keeping

20. Successful/Unsuccessful Applicants

Once the panel has made a decision, successful applicants will be:

- Notified by telephone and will be sent written confirmation.
- Be required in writing to accept/refuse the position.
- Must notify LIVEFree CHURCH of their availability to begin employment.

Unsuccessful applicants will immediately receive confirmation of the panel decision.