



Appointment Brief and Role Description

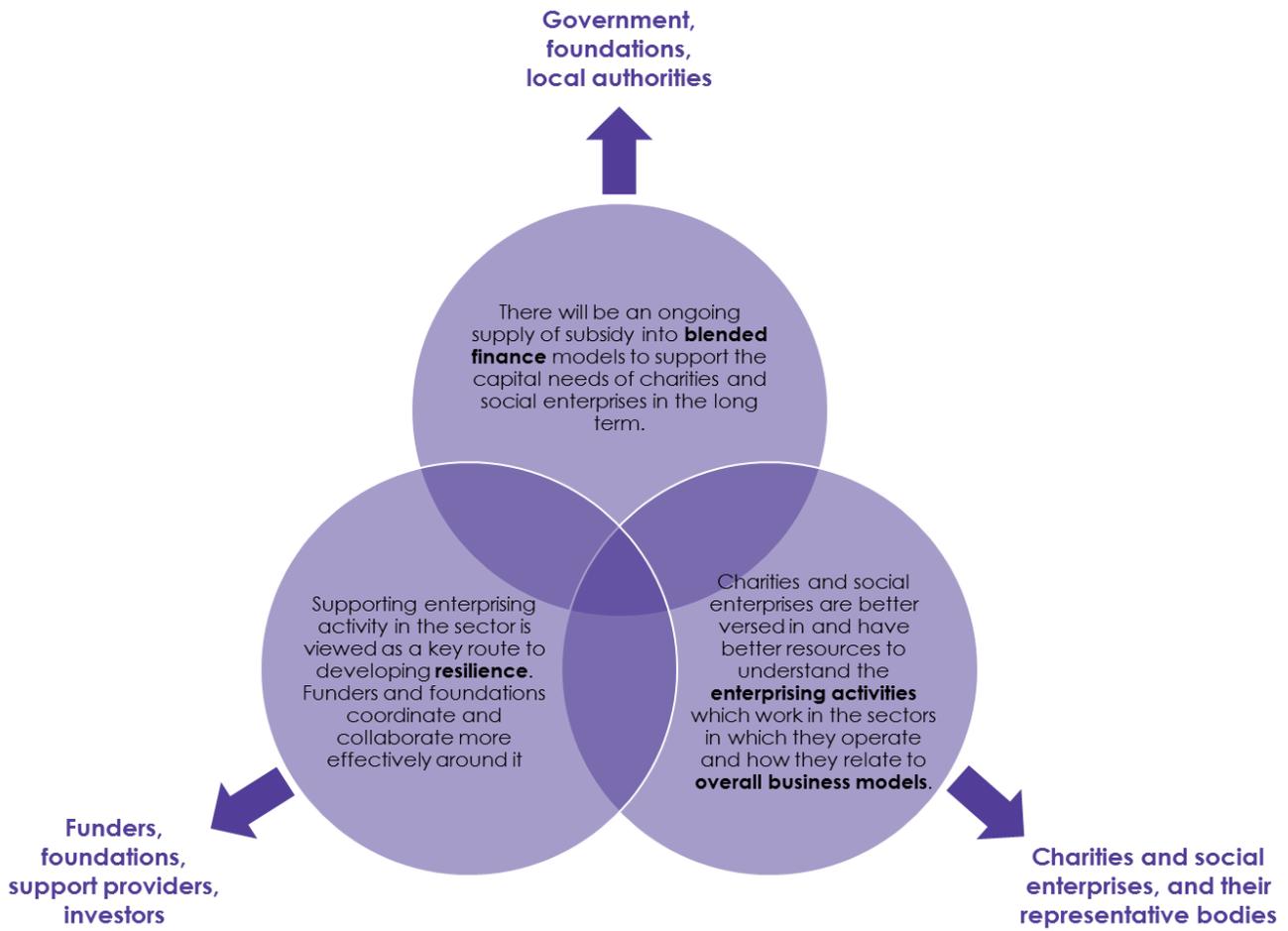
Director of Partnerships and Advocacy

This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of the social investment and support ecosystem over the next five years.

Access was established in 2015 to improve access to social investment for those charities and social enterprises experiencing barriers or facing exclusion from being able to do so. Access is a life-limited organisation, anticipated to exist for ten years. The ambition over that time is to both directly impact charities and social enterprises through the delivery of our programmes, but also to change the social investment ecosystem to better serve these organisations in the long term and once Access has gone.

Over the last five years, our programmes have transformed the ways in which social investment providers and capacity building organisations can support charities and social enterprises around England. We have generated a wealth of learning about how to effectively apply grant to change incentives in the ecosystem so it can better serve the needs of charities and social enterprises and build resilience in the long term. We are widely regarded for reflecting the values of the sector and for our network leadership approach.

As we enter the second half of our life, we have begun to carefully plan towards our legacy. This includes thinking through the conditions that need to be in place across the social investment ecosystem over the next five years for Access to be able to close, and to close well. We have developed three legacy objectives, mapped the stakeholders who are key to achieving them, and identified how we need to influence them:



We are now looking for a highly skilled yet humble influencer to drive this agenda over the remaining five years of Access's life.

Part One: Key responsibilities

Role overview

An existing and unique opportunity to lead the development and delivery of our advocacy function. You will be a key member of our leadership team, reporting to the CEO and supporting him, the Director of Learning, the Board and your colleagues in communicating and influencing with impactful narratives and content. Without focusing on building Access's own brand, you will raise the profile of our work, and crucially that of our partners, with key audiences and stakeholders, ensuring that we are able to influence at the highest levels on behalf of the organisations we seek to support.

Strategy development

- Develop and deliver Access's advocacy strategy, building on the work already undertaken to define Access's legacy objectives.
- Work closely with board members, and partner organisations to develop a clear and distinctive set of narratives which work towards achieving our legacy goals.

Advocacy with partners

- Build strong relationships with and convene key stakeholders who will be critical to our legacy objectives being achieved, some of whom Access already works closely with and others with whom we don't; deliver strategic and tactical engagement with those stakeholders.
- Lead Access's engagement with key networks which are influential in achieving our legacy objectives (for example the Association of Charitable Foundations, Social Investment Forum, European Venture Philanthropy Association.)
- Identify opportunities for influencing those stakeholders using a variety of tools, which may include developing aligned programmes, or developing shared research or joint campaigns (working closely with the Director of Programmes and Learning respectively).
- Support the CEO, Chair and other trustees to build and maintain key relationships which will support Access's legacy.
- Embody Access's network leadership approach and seek to strike the right balance between building Access's reputation as an expert in the field and giving voice to the organisations who will outlive us.

Influencing with data and insight

- Identify and build opportunities to position Access and our partners as experts on key topics relating to the financing needs of charities and social

enterprises, resilience building in the sector, effective grant making, and the broader role of the sector in economic development.

- Lead on enhancing the format, relevance and reach of Access's regular sharing of data and the impact we and our partners are having.
- Develop new content across a variety of media which champion and effectively communicate Access's unique market insights.
- Work closely with the Director of Learning to translate Access's unique insights into broader narratives and campaigns which are relevant to Access's advocacy goals.

Communications

- Oversee all and deliver much of Access's communications output to ensure that it is consistent with and contributing to the advocacy strategy, and giving voice to the organisations we partner with and who we exist to support.
- Supporting the Access team and Board to become better communicators and utilise their own connections and networks.
- Seek and undertake relevant public speaking opportunities.

Part Two: Person specification

Knowledge and experience:

You should be able to demonstrate an extensive track record and evidence of achievements in terms of:

- Exerting influence to successfully change the behaviours of external stakeholders
- Building major partnerships and collaborative campaigns to deliver shared objectives
- Developing and influencing government policy
- Overseeing and producing effective and accessible organisational communication which ideally focuses on mission not brand
- Developing narratives which have gained significant traction outside of the organisation

It is desirable that you are able to demonstrate your existing networks amongst Access's key stakeholders, or otherwise essential that you can demonstrate how you have built equivalent networks in a similar context.

Experience of working in the social investment sector is desirable but not essential.

Skills, Personal Style and Behaviour

- A strategic thinker – able to plan over the longer term and set reasonable and attainable goals over the shorter term towards that end
- Flexible and adaptable – able to cope with uncertainty and change plans accordingly
- Comfortable and unfazed by networking with senior ministers and organisation leaders
- An exciting and engaging communication style, through which you can explain complex principles in a straightforward way
- Embodies network leadership
- Focuses on mission not personal or organisational ego. Always happy to create a platform for partners where that best services Access's objectives
- Recognition and embracing of the realities of working for a small, purposeful and lean organisation without significant pre-existing structures and processes; happy to write a blog in the morning and work on the long term strategy in the afternoon
- Engage and collaborate effectively with key colleagues, especially the Director of Learning

Terms and Conditions

- This role attracts a salary of c. £65,000
- 28 days annual leave
- Contributory pension
- Other benefits include travel loan
- Probationary period six months
- Notice period three months (on completion of probationary period)
- The role is ideally full time however we will consider less than 5 days per week for the right candidate
- The role is based in Access's offices in Central London and the Access team expect to be returning to spending time in the office from September 2021 (subject to Government guidance), including some dedicated time together as a team each week. However outside of this shared time, Access anticipates a significant degree of day to day flexibility in terms of where team members will work, depending on both personal preference and the needs of their role.

How to apply:

Please provide a comprehensive CV and a cover letter of no more than two sides outlining your suitability for the role and how you meet the person specification above.

These should be sent to applications@Access-si.org.uk by noon on Tuesday 25th May 2021.

There will be two rounds of interviews, in w/c 7th and 14th June which will be held by zoom. Final dates to be confirmed.

Access's privacy policy is available [here](#).