

Job Title	Early Years Development Manager (Maternity Leave Cover)
Salary	£30,126 – £34,760 per annum
Level	Level 2
Responsible to	Senior Development Manager – Children and Young People (Level 3)
Key External Partners	NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Early Years Providers, NECA, VCSE Organisations, Active Partnerships, Cultural, Education and Housing Sectors, Family Hubs, Children, Families and Funders

Purpose

The Early Years Development Manager will lead and deliver Rise's work within the early years sector (pregnancy to age 5) across Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham, supporting the charity's strategic priorities to empower healthier lives, tackle inequalities, and strengthen communities.

The role focuses on increasing physical activity levels, movement, active play and wellbeing for young children aged 0–5 and their families, expectant/new parents and the wider professionals that support them. Helping to reduce the inequalities gap and ensuring every child has the best start in life and supports families to thrive - particularly in communities experiencing the greatest health, social, and economic disadvantage.

The Early Years Development Manager will programme develop and project manage our early years workstream, building strong local, regional and national partnerships. Co-design inclusive, evidence based, needs led programmes and positive experiences. Championing the voices of our youngest children, their families and professionals in the early years sector in shaping local systems, policy, and practice ensuring they meet regulatory standards and compliance within the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework (EYFS).

Key Themes & Responsibilities

1. Lead Rise's maternity and early years work, ensuring it aligns with organisational strategy and priorities. Build and maintain strong relationships with relevant partners across health, education, and community systems and represent Rise within regional and national forums.

2. Through partnership development, collaboration and influence, promote the role of physical activity, movement and active play as central to child development and family wellbeing.
3. Develop, implement and manage the co-design and delivery of programmes, training, events and place-based initiatives that promote active play, movement and empower the voices of young children and families.
4. Work collaboratively with internal and external colleagues to co-design, upscale and diversify Rise's current and new programme offers for children age 0-5 and their families, expectant/new parents and the wider professionals that support them.
5. Ensure that all work is inclusive, diverse and evidence-led, meeting the highest standards of all safeguarding, equity and quality. The Early Years Development Manager will ensure that delivery promotes high standards and positive outcomes and contributes to sustainable changes in behaviour and system practice.
6. Research and map the local maternity and early years sector, fostering community links and engagement, understanding gaps in workforce development and provision for young children and families. Identify and develop new funding and partnership opportunities that will sustain and grow our maternity and early years offer.
7. The postholder will contribute to bid writing and business development proposals. Manage programme budgets and resources effectively to maximise impact and achieve value for money in line with the charity's financial procedures.
8. Monitor programme effectiveness by using research, data and insight to inform learning, demonstrate impact and drive continuous improvement. Support with evaluation reports for funders and stakeholders, sharing key learning, case studies and successes. Contribute to building a strong evidence base that informs wider practice and influences policy.
9. Line manage, mentor and support colleagues to ensure the effective direction and delivery of our early years work and contribute to the development of organisational strategies and plans.
10. Participate in training and professional development, model Rise's values and behaviours, and work flexibly as part of a collaborative, learning organisation.
11. Any other duties as required, commensurate with the grade and remuneration of the post.

Number of Reports

Direct Reports: 1

Indirect Reports: 0

Practical Requirements

The post holder must:

- Operate firmly within the charity's Behaviour Framework at all times.
- Be a leading advocate for the benefits that physical health and wellbeing can play in developing communities and individuals.
- Ensure compliance with the charity's internal procedures and all legal requirements.
- This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS check.

Last updated: November 2025

Date of next review: November 2026