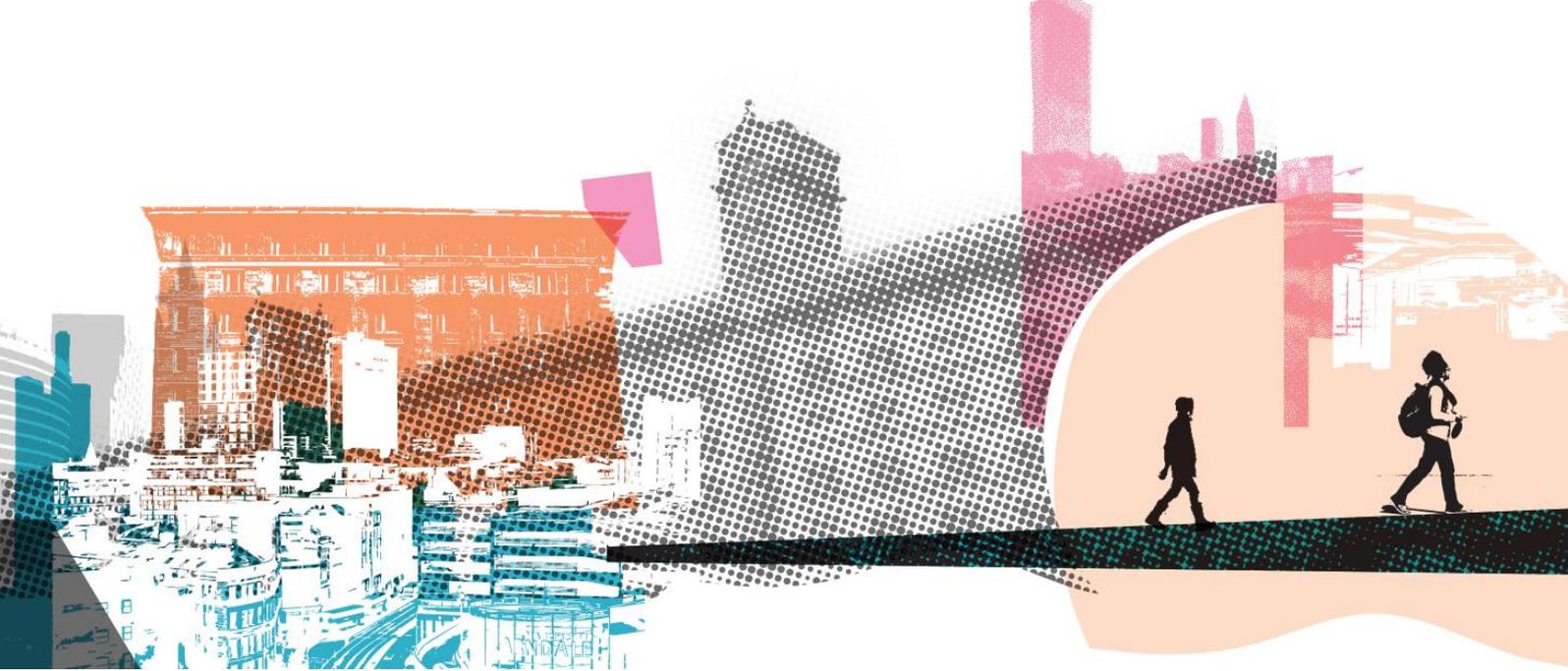


THE BIG LiFE GROUP



Teaching Assistant – Level 3 (Sensory Support – Hearing Needs)

This job changes lives



About The Big Life Group

The Big Life Group's mission is to fight for equity, in health, in wealth and in life. We are a social business delivering a range of services across the North of England, covering everything from mental and physical health, addiction and criminal justice, to housing, education, family support and much more. What links them together is the way we work – The Big Life Way.

We always stand shoulder-to-shoulder with people, working with them on the things that matter most to them. Everything we do is designed and informed by the needs, priorities and strengths of people and communities.

Our values

- **Courage:** We stand up for ourselves, and the people and communities we work alongside, even when that makes us unpopular, or challenges accepted wisdom.
- **Creativity:** We find innovative solutions that work, never accepting the easy option or the status quo.
- **Honesty:** We act with integrity, speaking the truth to ourselves and others.
- **Inspiration:** We are inspired by the people and communities we work with and share what we learn from them to inspire others.
- **Thoughtful:** We act with care and compassion and work to understand people's experiences. We take time to listen, reflect and continually learn.
- **Valuing difference:** We recognise and celebrate the unique qualities, gifts, insights and perspectives that different people offer.

Working at Big Life

At Big Life, work is more than a job – it's about standing shoulder-to-shoulder with people and communities, making a difference every day. We fight for equity in health, in wealth and in life, and that commitment starts with how our staff.

Be yourself

We want you to feel safe, respected and able to bring your whole self to work. Difference is celebrated here, and our staff networks - from menopause to neurodiversity, LGBTQI+ and more - create space to connect and support each other.

Benefits that matter

We offer more than a payslip - you'll find wellbeing support through LifeWorks, Simply Health and mindfulness sessions, 25-30 days' annual leave plus your birthday off, flexible working, and regular learning opportunities. Everyday perks include Blue Light Card discounts, savings schemes, cycle-to-work, free eye tests and more - little extras to make life easier inside and outside of work.

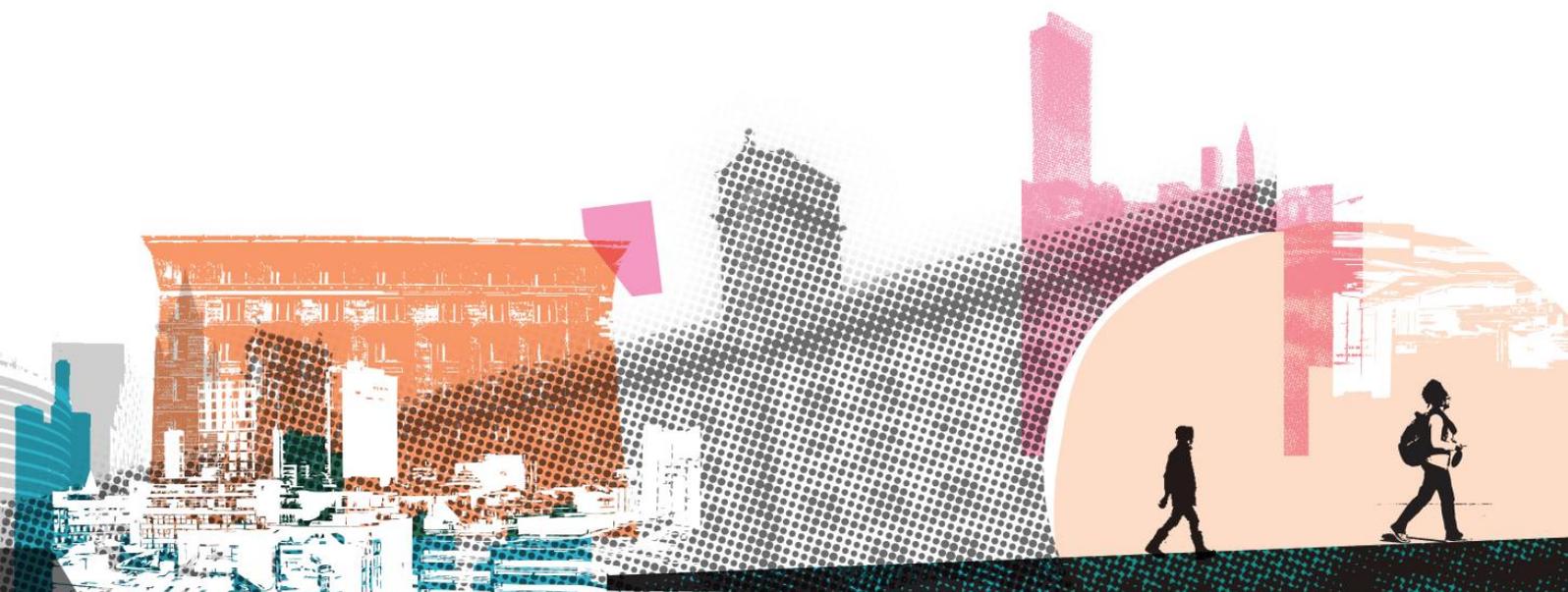
Recognised as outstanding

We're proud to be ranked by Best Companies as one of the UK's outstanding places to work, with a two-star accreditation in 2024.

A culture of trust and flexibility

Our people describe our culture as relaxed and supportive. You'll be trusted to plan your own day, take breaks when you need, and work in a way that fits with your life as well as your role.

If you're looking for more than a job - if you want to be part of a team that's bold, creative and relentlessly committed to equity – then Big Life could be the place for you.



Job Description: Teaching Assistant – Level 3

The basics

Salary

£28,598 - £32,061 per annum (NJC Scale 12–19) pro rata to term-time only

Hours

35 Hours per Week (term time only – 39 weeks per year). We would consider a four day per week part time role

Base

Manchester (working across settings as required)

Line manager

Teacher

Closing date: Friday, 24 April

Interviews: Thursday, 7 May

What you'll be doing

As a Teaching Assistant – Level 3, you will work under the guidance of a Teacher of the Deaf, providing specialist support to children and young people with hearing needs. You'll play a key role in helping pupils overcome barriers to learning and fully access the curriculum in inclusive education settings.

You will support learning across a range of environments, including mainstream schools, specialist placements and community settings. Using your skills in communication – including British Sign Language (BSL) – you'll help pupils develop independence, confidence and engagement in learning and social activities.

This role is ideal for an experienced teaching assistant with a strong commitment to inclusion, safeguarding and continuous professional development.

Main duties

Support for pupils

1. Support pupils individually and in small groups, delivering programmes of work and therapy under the direction of a Teacher of the Deaf.
2. Use specialist sensory skills and communication methods (e.g. BSL, SSE or oral approaches) to meet pupils' individual needs.
3. Promote inclusion, independence and positive behaviour.
4. Support pupils during lessons, adapting activities to ensure full access to learning.
5. Provide feedback to pupils and staff on progress and achievement.
6. Support pupils' personal care and wellbeing, including first aid where required.
7. Assist with medication in exceptional circumstances with appropriate training.
8. Support pupils in mainstream placements, work experience and integration settings.
9. Participate in casework activities, including home visits, where appropriate.

Support for teachers, curriculum and schools

1. Prepare learning environments and resources and support lesson delivery.
2. Contribute to planning, assessment and evaluation of learning activities.
3. Liaise with therapists, medical staff and other professionals.
4. Maintain accurate records and contribute to reports and assessments.
5. Support the use of ICT and specialist hearing equipment.
6. Communicate effectively with parents/carers and attend meetings as required.
7. Support behaviour management strategies and pupil wellbeing.

Work-related expectations

1. Work within Big Life Group's mission, values and ethos.
2. Contribute to the development of Big Life Group and the Sensory Support Service.
3. Work in accordance with all Big Life Group policies, particularly safeguarding, health and safety and information governance.
4. Commit to personal development and attend required training.
5. Work in line with all relevant legislation and professional standards.
6. Take part in regular supervision and appraisal.
7. Undertake any other duties appropriate to the role.

Person Specification: Teaching Assistant – Level 3

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they meet the following points, either in their application, at an interview or through taking part in a test.

Experience

1. Experience working with children or young people with hearing needs.
2. Ability to build positive relationships with children and adults.
3. Experience working as part of a team.

Education and training

1. Literacy and numeracy skills equivalent to NQF Level 2.
2. Training in relevant learning strategies or curriculum areas (e.g. bilingual approaches).
3. BSL to level 2 or 3 (preferable)

Knowledge

1. An understanding of the role of teaching assistants and other classroom professionals
2. An awareness of health and safety in relation to outside activities
3. Knowledge and understanding of national foundation stage curriculum and other basic learning programmes, strategic processes and barriers to learning
4. Understanding principles of child development and learning processes
5. Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children in education settings
6. Knowledge of strategic processes and barriers to learning

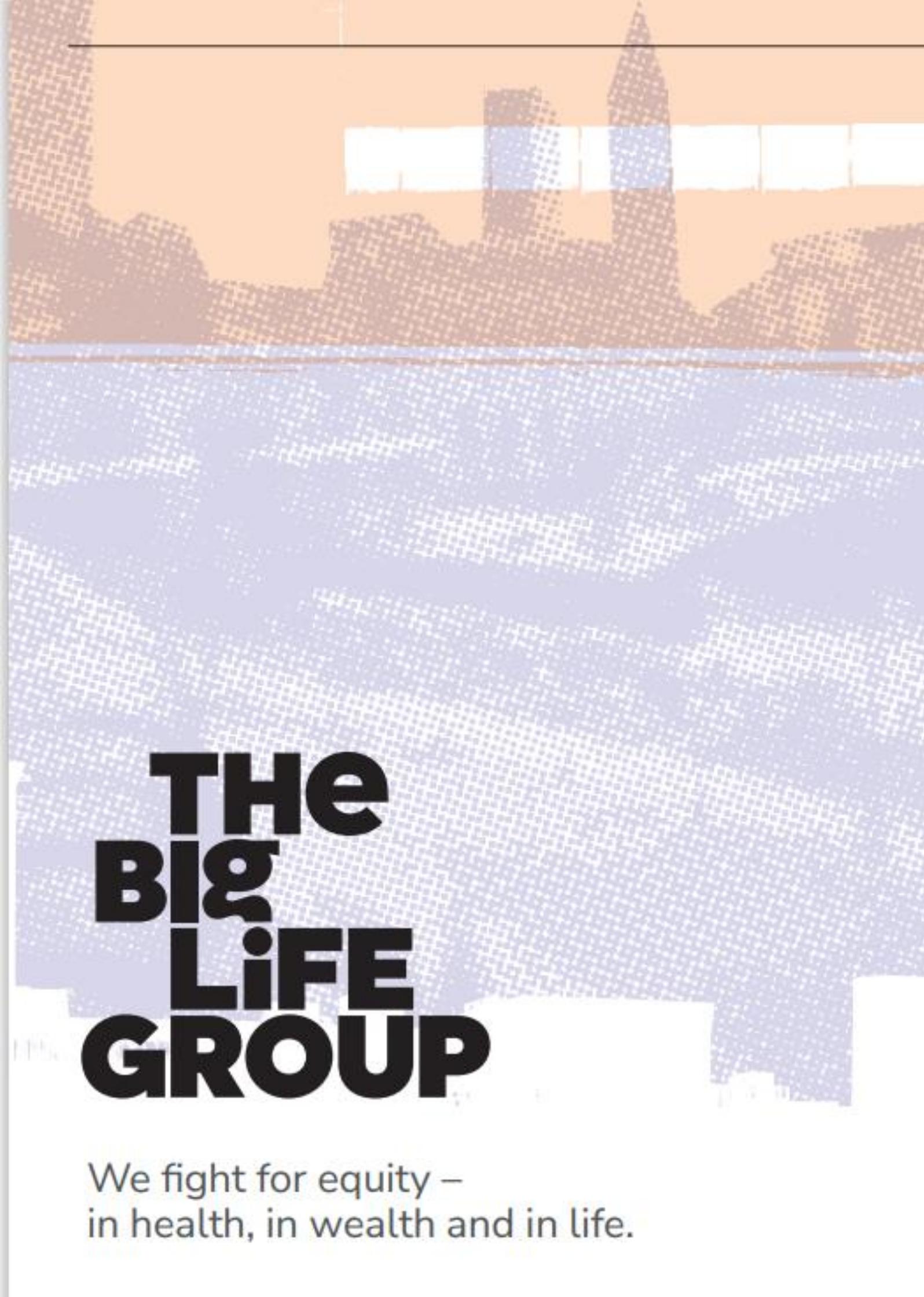
Skills

1. Willing to participate in training and performance management, self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities
2. Training in learning strategies relevant to sensory needs
3. Ability to support groups and to demonstrate experience of leading planning and assessment for small groups of pupils.
4. Ability to plan rotas of activities and games to enhance breaktimes

5. Ability to audit equipment, deal with breakages
6. Ability to relate well to children and adults
7. Ability to work as part of a team
8. Ability to use relevant technology such as a photocopier and specific hearing equipment
9. Ability to organise, motivate and lead a team.

Personal

1. Must be reliable and flexible according to the business needs
2. Non-judgmental approach to working with customer groups
3. Commitment to working within The Big Life' group's ethos and values
4. Ability to demonstrate a professional, confident, and positive "can do" attitude at all times.
5. Attention to detail and accuracy
6. Tact and diplomacy in all interpersonal relationships with the public, pupils and colleagues
7. Full, valid driving licence and access to transport
8. Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities
9. Be willing to consent to and apply for an enhanced DBS check
10. Willingness to undertake first aid training as appropriate



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in health, in wealth and in life.