

Writing For All Greenbook Contribution Sample Response

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Organisation: Writers Unite

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Position: Trainer/Coach

Writers Unite is a new online buddying, coaching, peer mentoring and support service set up for writers by writers. It gives new writers access to expertise, inspiration and encouragement, and the opportunity to give as well as receive support. More experienced writers have the opportunity to learn coaching/mentoring skills, develop their facilitation skills, and share their expertise. All volunteer facilitators and coaches are trained and supervised by Writers Unite. We are currently seeking accreditation for our training programme.

We offer one to one sessions for new writers, participation in a writing buddy scheme, small group coaching and action learning sets led by a trained facilitator. All meetings take place online.

Our model is to create a culture where writers are empowered to learn how to encourage and develop other writers. At present, we have secured grant funding for the next six months, but with no guarantee of an extension. We are continually trying to find ways to fund ourselves to provide ongoing training for volunteers. From our own research, we know many of the writers who benefit most from our services, are unable to pay for them. Exploring ways to keep ourselves financially viable takes up most of our time and limited resources. We would love professional help to develop a sustainable business model and learn how to make our fantastic service viable in the long term.

We are happy to take part in further research.