



Senior Storytelling Officer

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in this role at Turn2us.

By taking your next step with us, you'd be joining an organisation where the work really matters. It matters to the parent who worries about keeping their children warm this winter. It matters to the colleague who falls ill and can no longer work. It matters to those of us who lie awake worrying about mounting bills. It matters to us because none of us should have to face these challenges alone.

We're looking forward to hearing from people who are deeply committed to our vision: a future where everyone in the UK has financial security so they can thrive. We should have enough money to cover the basics, enjoy our lives and plan for the future, and we believe this is a basic right everyone should have, regardless of age, race, whether someone is gay, straight, trans, able-bodied, Disabled, married or single.

You'd be joining a team who are determined to change the system that affects so many of us. I'm inspired every day by their depth of knowledge and curiosity, their highly competent humility, and their commitment to improving people's lives. From our grants team, who work relentlessly to help people thrive, to those who create and manage our innovative online tools; our passionate team is determined to create lasting, tangible impact.

One good example of this is our Benefits Calculator. In 2023/2024, over 2.5 million calculations were completed using the tool. We know that 60% of those users (1.6 million) found new benefits they could apply for. Similarly, our new PIP Helper tool, built with people who have experience of claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP), is helping people navigate a system described as "complex" and "exhausting".

We know that we can't do any of this alone. For our work to make the biggest possible difference, it must be shaped by the voices and insights of people with recent or current experience of financial insecurity – our co-production partners. Their expertise is the golden thread running through all our work: they know the system, and they know what needs to be done to change it. And this collaboration doesn't just happen on an individual level. We build partnerships with trusted, community organisations – deepening our impact and our understanding of what people need to thrive.

We know, too, that this expert, collaborative work is built on a foundation of a strong culture. At Turn2us we strive to create an environment where colleagues look forward to coming to work and feel truly valued for what they do. We should feel encouraged to try new things without fear of failure, but with a commitment to learn from mistakes. We should all be working with a sense of urgency to co-create change, with an understanding that we need to look after ourselves and each other.

Central to this, is creating a diverse and inclusive working environment. We know that Turn2us benefits hugely from colleagues with a range of backgrounds, who enrich our work with valuable, different perspectives and experiences. To nurture this and create an environment where everyone feels safe and seen, we take equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB) very seriously. It's embedded in our organisational values and in our guiding principles, owned individually and collectively at all levels of the charity.

To encourage this diversity of thought and experience, we're open to people who would bring transferable skills to this role. Maybe you haven't walked a 'traditional' career path, but you've built the skills to do this role, and do it well. If you can demonstrate a clear commitment to our values and ethos, and a deep personal commitment to our vision, we'd love to hear from you.

Thomas Lawson,
Chief Executive, Turn2us
Chair, Elizabeth Finn Homes

From your hiring manager

It's 2025. No-one should be lying awake worrying about mounting bills. No child should be starting their school day cold and hungry. But the fact is, it's happening, and we want to end it.

Turn2us is a charity tackling financial insecurity across the UK. We offer practical support and information to help everyone thrive, and we're working to change the systems and perceptions that cause financial insecurity.

Everything we do is built for - and shaped by - people who have lived experience of financial insecurity. That includes our strategy, our digital tools, our approach to grant-making, our policy work and much more. We also believe that voices of lived experience should be at the heart of our communications and fundraising work, showing people the impact of financial insecurity, and why they should support our work to end it. To help us achieve that, we're looking for someone who can work closely with the people we serve, sharing their stories with care and authenticity.

At Turn2us, we know that a huge range of factors influence a person's education and career pathway, so we have not listed any formal education requirements for this role. If you have great experience, in this sector or another, we'd love to hear from you. We want to build a team full of complementary experiences and strengths, not a group of people with the same perspectives.

This pack provides information about our work, structure and our strategic plans for the future. You will also find specific details for this role and information on how to apply.

We would love to hear from you

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Emma Dixon,
Head of Brand & Communications

Financial security goes beyond survival

At Turn2us, we see every day how the right support at the right time can transform lives. It can mean having enough money to put food on the table and pay the bills, and the ability to thrive, not just survive. We all need financial security.

Financial security involves having enough money to comfortably cover your monthly expenses, save for your future and, most crucially, recover from financial shocks.

We want to see a society where everyone has the right to financial security. Our ambition to bring about this change forms the backbone of our strategy.

But it's not enough for Turn2us to demand change from a society and economic system at the root of so much financial insecurity for so many of us. We also need to model the change we and many other partners know is needed.

Our previous strategy, which focused on the financial shocks caused by life-changing events, enabled us to build strong foundations for our evolving ambition. We strengthened our safeguarding and sharpened our focus on equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB).

We increased the reach and outcomes of our products and services by co-producing them with people with in-depth experience of the problems we were trying to address.

Over the last three years we have listened to and worked alongside individuals and families who have steered us towards an emphasis on financial security – empowering people to thrive, not just survive.

The growing scale of suffering compels us to increase our focus on challenging an outdated, unfair economic system.

Whilst overhauling the current system will not be straightforward, there is a growing desire across civil society, the commercial sector, and parts of the state to work together to change the status quo so that more people can work together to overcome financial shocks and rebuild the strength and resilience of their communities.

We will join forces with a wide range of partners, facilitating (with others) a broad coalition for change.

Over the next five years we will take steps towards that goal of designing a fairer economy, working both with UK-wide decision-makers and the people and families at the centre of communities driving change.

At Turn2us, we're well-placed to broaden our reach, deepen our impact and help drive the necessary change.

Join us in building a better future for us all.

Case studies

You can read more about the people accessing our services here:

[Alicia ↗](#)

[Fergus ↗](#)

Background reading

[JRF UK Poverty 2023 ↗](#)

[SMC Measuring Poverty 2019 ↗](#)

Further information

[View our Annual Report & Accounts 2021/2022 ↗](#)

[View our Strategy and Purpose ↗](#)

Job description

Senior Storytelling Officer

Job title:	Senior Storytelling Officer
Department:	Brand & Communications Team, Income & External Affairs Directorate
Reports to:	PR & Press Manager
Location:	Hybrid: Turn2us London Hub (Farringdon) & homeworking
Contract type:	Permanent, part-time 21 hours a week

Purpose of role

Lead on the development and delivery of our storytelling function, ensuring wherever possible, communications are co-created with or led by the voices of people with lived experience of financial insecurity.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities

1. Support Turn2us's strategy by putting voices of lived experience at the centre of our work:

- Develop a strong and diverse pipeline of prospective storytellers including for use in:
 - PR/Media
 - Brand/marketing
 - Policy/influencing
 - Impact measurement
 - Supporter engagement and income generation.
- Create and identify opportunities for storytellers to tell their stories in authentic and powerful ways that play to their individual strengths.
- Create a bank of storytelling content by interviewing, drafting, and signing off copy with storytellers.
- Ensure stories reflect the diversity and realities of those experiencing financial insecurity. Our stories should challenge the stigma and narratives that compound disadvantage.

2. Build relationships and collaborate with colleagues to generate storytelling opportunities:

- Build productive relationships across the organisation to build reputation, trust and credibility.
- Work closely with Turn2us colleagues (e.g. co-production, grants, digital tools) to identify and approach potential storytellers.
- Work closely with the PR team to secure impactful national, regional and local media coverage using storytelling voices.
- Create opportunities for content creation and liaise with colleagues in the Brand/Comms team to support storytellers throughout the content creation process.
- Work with colleagues to identify and apply new and innovative approaches to storytelling.
- Promote storytelling internally – share the impact of storytelling internally to build confidence and understanding of the value of storytelling.
- Work closely with the Safeguarding Manager to escalate and manage any concerns.

3. Take a person-centred approach to storytelling:

- Develop and maintain meaningful relationships with storytellers, based in transparency and trust.
- Provide meaningful stewardship and aftercare of people stories and ensure compliance with our safeguarding and informed consent policies.
- Work with the PR team to ensure all lived experts who act as spokespeople receive appropriate media training and that they are properly briefed and supported ahead of media interviews.
- Stay up to date on best practice around story gathering processes, including informed consent, co-production and data asset management, and data governance.
- Work with the PR manager to establish, maintain and report on KPIs around storytelling.

4. Develop and share best practice:

- Build on existing work to develop storytelling processes and strategy.
- Maintain excellent data management, including contacts, records of conversations consents, and archive management.
- Develop and maintain robust systems for safeguarding storytellers.

- Support colleagues across the organisation to use storytelling effectively in their work e.g. by creating story gathering best practice tools, guidelines and training.
- Identify systems, tools and processes to drive continuous improvement of the stories function.
- Communicate regularly with other teams across the charity to keep colleagues up to date on storytelling developments.
- Track how stories are used, evaluate their impact, and share insights with relevant stakeholders and storytellers.

These are the normal duties, which the Charity requires from the position. However, it is necessary for all staff to be flexible and all employees will be required from time to time to perform other duties as may be required by the Charity for the efficient running of the charity. This Job Description is non-contractual. It will be reviewed from time to time and may be subject to change.

At Turn2us, we are committed to protecting personnel, children, adults, and service users from any harm arising from each other, themselves, our activities, or organisational failings whilst in contact with us. The post holder will be required to follow the safeguarding policy and will be responsible for integrating safeguarding into all aspects of their work.

The post holder will be expected to ensure that their work complies with contractual terms and conditions, the Charity's policies and procedures and key legislation, such as data protection and charity law.

Head of human resources Anna Docherty, and digital project manager David Swann, at a Turn2us workshop.



Person specification

Senior Storytelling Officer

Skills & Experience

Necessary:

- Experience in a storytelling role e.g. journalism, communications, PR, copywriting etc.
- Excellent written and spoken communications skills, with a clear understanding of how to translate people's stories into powerful and engaging content.
- Strong interpersonal skills, with a demonstrated ability to build and maintain relationships with stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds.
- Ability to energise and influence colleagues in the department, directorate, wider organisation and external partners.

Desirable:

- Experience of creating written content for a range of audiences.
- Experience of working with people in difficult circumstances especially in a communications setting - effectively and with empathy.
- Experience of interviewing people, including those where sensitivity is required.
- Experience of working in the charity or advocacy sector.

Knowledge

Necessary:

- Awareness of key issues related to financial insecurity and poverty in the UK, as well as the broader charity sector. This will ensure our storytelling effectively supports the organisation's wider aims.

- An understanding of intersectionality and commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging.
- Sound technical knowledge and experience maintaining standards of data protection and information governance compliance.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of trauma-informed approaches.
- An understanding of safeguarding and its importance when working with people sharing their stories.

Personal Attributes

- A commitment to sensitive, authentic storytelling.
- Ability to exercise diplomacy and tact when working through challenges with the team or other internal or external stakeholders.
- Willingness to travel to meetings across the UK when needed.
- A commitment to embodying the charity's values of:
Financial Security for All.
Listen, Learn, Improve.
Together We Succeed.
Impatient [for change].

Turn2us is fully committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in our sector. We want this to be reflected in the diversity of the people who work for us and we are interested in applications from people from varied backgrounds.

Staff Benefits

To read the full list of benefits of working at Turn2us, please visit the jobs page of our website [linked here](#).

Annual Leave

- If you join us at Turn2us, you will start on 25 days annual leave per annum (pro-rata for part time workers). Each year on the month you joined, you will receive an additional day of leave up to a maximum of 30 days. On top of this you will receive bank holidays.

Volunteer Days

- The charity offers 2 volunteering days per year to allow staff to gain experiences and skills outside of work. Examples could include volunteering at a food bank, helping in a school or becoming a trustee at another organisation.

Employee Support

- Confidential counselling line provided through our employer's liability insurance policy with Ecclesiastical.

Flexible Working

- We offer flexible working patterns, both in terms of hours and remote working. Please note that all employees are required to work from the office a minimum of 4 days a month on a weekly basis. Some roles may be required to be in the office more often than this and this will be agreed with the hiring manager upon starting at Turn2us.

Commitment to diversity & inclusion

We welcome applications from anyone regardless of their age, experience, disability, ethnicity, heritage, sexuality, gender and socio-economic background. We particularly welcome applications from black, Asian, and minority ethnic candidates, disabled candidates and trans people, as these groups are underrepresented within our organisation.

Turn2us is deeply committed to inclusive working practices, so during the application process we commit to:

- Making any reasonable adjustments.
- Providing this job pack in a Word document format on request, for anyone who finds Word documents more accessible.
- Sharing interview questions or areas of discussion ahead of interviews.



Group head of IT Sophia Salem, and grant search product owner Christelle Tambi.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying, please click on this [Link 7](#) which will take you to our Applied platform, which supports Turn2us to recruit people free of bias. As part of the application process, you will be asked to complete some questions which are linked to the requirements of the role. These will be blind-reviewed, and the scoring of these will determine whether you move forward in the process.

You will also be asked to submit personal details including diversity data. All diversity data will be treated as confidential. Those involved in the selection process will NOT have access to it. The information given by candidates will be solely used for the purpose of improving the recruitment process.

Turn2us is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from members of all communities. It is committed to equality of opportunity, inclusion and diversity. We encourage and welcome applications from all parts of the community regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Turn2us particularly welcomes applications from those who have had experience of poverty themselves or of tackling poverty.

At Turn2us, we are committed to protecting personnel, children, adults, and service users from any harm arising from each other, themselves, our activities, or organisational failings whilst in contact with us. More information on our safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

Please let us know if you will require any reasonable adjustments should you be called for an interview.

Please note that all job offers are subject to 2 – 3 satisfactory references and a disclosure satisfactory to Turn2us from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

[Please read our privacy policy here.](#)

Noemi, Turn2us service user.



About Turn2us



Our vision

Everyone in the UK has financial security so that they can thrive.



Our purpose

We offer support to those of us facing financial shocks and together we challenge the systems and perceptions that cause financial insecurity.



Our values

Financial security for all

It's not acceptable to us that we live in an unjust society where a financial shock becoming a financial crisis is more likely for those already facing barriers to thriving.

Everyone should have access to appropriate rights, resources and support. We actively tackle prejudice and barriers to access.

We face into the causes of financial inequality, challenging the status quo, ourselves and others in doing so.

We believe this is urgent. We will not stand by as another generation grows up without adequate money and the resources to thrive.

Listen, learn and improve

To be effective, we need to deeply understand people's experiences, the financial challenges they face, what's important to them and how best we, and others, can provide support through a financial crisis or shock.

We are on a constant cycle of listening, learning and looking to improve. This gives us confidence in our direction. Listening attentively to people's lived experiences. Learning from all we hear and all we experience. Looking to improve how we support, respond and progress.

We hold ourselves to account and want to be held to account by those we work with and serve. Each and every one of us has our own worth and value. And it is in the spirit of humility and equality that we hear, learn and improve the most.

Together we succeed

We are successful when we collaborate, co-create, partner and work together.

Financial hardship can happen to anyone and for many reasons. Everyone's needs and situation are unique. We make no assumptions, no judgements.

Financial exclusion can be complex and complicated so we must work together with those we serve as well as other partners.

Impatient

We can't rest until financial security is achieved for all. To create change so that people can thrive we need to be proactive, take initiative, create momentum and drive forward with energy, determination and conviction. This sense of urgency is at the heart of our culture and all we do.

How we work

Our three strategic priorities:

Offer high quality information and support. We will be led by people experiencing financial insecurity, the communities we work with and our partners, and our improvement focused evaluation, to develop integrated services people need.

Strengthen communities through place-based programmes. We will develop existing programmes and start new ones, designed by and rooted in communities across the UK. Led by local organisations and people with experience of financial hardship, we will address financial insecurity and economic injustice together.

Help build a fair economy through systems change. Building on our data, insight and learning, we will campaign to build an economy that includes everyone and that we can all contribute to. We will work in partnership to create new systems that build financial security for all.

Our three guiding principles:

Championing equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB). We know black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities, disabled people, women and those from LGBTQIA+ communities, are more likely to experience financial hardship. Being inclusive and creating belonging will be central to the way we run our own organisation, as well as the way in which we design and offer our services.

Upholding human rights. No one should have to choose between heating their home or feeding their children. Our grantmaking, for example, addresses these wrongs and upholds people's rights.

Working for a fair journey to net zero economy. We will explore ways to support a transition to net zero in 2050 that protects people's employment and shares the benefits of a healthier, greener economy.

Our three organisational foundations:

Our culture. We will model the change we want to see across the UK. Our work will be rooted in partnership, respect, humility and mutual support.

Our finances. We will make the best possible use of our assets and investments and ensure they are on a thoroughly ethical footing. We will improve the returns from our care home business, Elizabeth Finn Homes.

Our brand. How we present ourselves and how we are experienced by everyone we meet is crucial for the delivery of this strategy. Our name – Turn2us – is both an invitation to people who need support, and a challenge to those in power, to listen to those voices of experience.

What we do

Turn2us is a national charity offering practical help to people facing financial insecurity. In 2023:



Over **2.7 million people** completed a Turn2us benefits calculation.



60% of Turn2us Benefits Calculator users found new benefits to apply for.



Turn2us made grants worth over a total of **£3.1 million** for almost **3,500 people** in financial need.



Over **750,000 searches** were completed using the Turn2us Grants Search tool.



Our Helpline received over **92,724 calls** from people needing support to access our services and those of others.



The cost of financial insecurity



Half the people who came to Turn2us for support (according to a survey of more than 2,000 Turn2us service users, carried out between 15 June and 20 July 2022), reported being left with nothing to live on each week after paying housing, council tax and utility bills.

Nationally, nearly a quarter of people (**24%**) run out of money for essentials either most months or most days, according to a survey in February 2023 by Survation, on behalf of the [Together Through This Crisis Coalition](#) ↗, of which Turn2us is a member.



Since August 2021, the Consumer Price Index inflation rate has soared from **0.7%** to **10.1%** in January 2023, with gas prices rising by **129%** in the year to January 2023. See [the Office of National Statistics data on inflation](#). ↗



Those most likely to report feeling worried about these rising costs are women (**81%** compared with **73%** of men); those aged 30 to 49 years (**82%**); people with disabilities (**82%** compared with **75%** of non disabled people) and those who have children under the age of five (**90%** compared with **76%** of non-parents). See [the Office of National Statistics to data on the cost of living](#). ↗



In 2022, there were an estimated **3.26 million** households in fuel poverty in England, which is projected to continue to rise to over **3.5 million** in 2023. See [the governments statistics on Fuel Poverty](#).



The demand for credit has risen sharply as people try to bridge the gap between their incomes and their needs. As a result, people in the UK owed **£1,832.8 billion** in personal debt at the end of December 2022, a figure up by **£72.3 billion** from the end of the previous year. See [The Money Charity on their 2023 statistics](#). ↗



Poverty rates for minoritised ethnic groups have been consistently higher than for white ethnic groups over the past 25 years. Since 2000/2001, poverty rates amongst black people have remained around **40%**. This is twice as high as the poverty rate for the white ethnic group which has been around **20%** since 2003/04. See [the Joseph Roundtree Foundation on their poverty rate statistics](#). ↗

Our timeline

1897

Elizabeth Finn founds the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association at the age of 72.

1904

The charity receives its first legacy from founding Chairman, **Colonel William Knolly**, of £450, which is £40,000 today.

1948

Shortly after the Second World War, there's a shortage of care homes for older people.

The charity buys a home in Surrey as well as two other care homes the next year.

1965

The charity opens its first care home in the North of England, Hampden House, which was also the first purpose built care home in Harrogate.

1999

Times are changing. Following talks with supporters, the charity changes its name from the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association to the Elizabeth Finn Trust in honour of our founder.

2007

The number of people coming to us for help is increasing so we create a new service called Turn2us.

The service sets up a website and helpline to help people in financial hardship to access welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help, and trains volunteers, advisers and caseworkers to help those who need further support.

2008

Elizabeth Finn Care wins the 2008 Third Sector **Award for Innovation in Grant Making**.

2009

Turn2us is formally reintegrated with its parent charity, Elizabeth Finn Care.

The Charity reaches a major landmark as it has given away a total of **£130,000,000** in direct grants since its foundation.

2010

Elizabeth Finn Care wins a competitive bid from the City of Edinburgh Council to consolidate **35 poverty-related funds** into The Edinburgh Trust, a charitable fund for the people of Edinburgh.

Our timeline

2011

The Turn2us service grows in size with over five million people in financial difficulty using the service – this includes **over 100,000 calls** to the helpline since its foundation.

2012

The Turn2us online service receives the accolade of a **Nominet Internet Award** for being one of the best online charity initiatives in the UK.

2012

The work of Elizabeth Finn Care continues to grow with over **350 volunteers** providing face-to-face support to those seeking our help.

2013

Turn2us launches a new **Benefits Calculator** to take into account the greatest ever overhaul of the benefits system.

2015

We integrate all of our activities under the name **Turn2us**.

This is to help us make the biggest impact we can for people experiencing tough times.

We continue to give direct grants to people and their families under the name Elizabeth Finn Fund and The Edinburgh Trust.

2017

Turn2us launches the Response Fund to help people who have had a life-changing event in the last 12 months that has left them struggling financially.

2020

The charity launches its new purpose and three year strategy.

This coincides with the coronavirus outbreak and subsequent lockdown, which we respond to by raising over £2.4 million and awarding a record **£1.3 million in crisis grants** within just three months.

2022

125th Anniversary of Turn2us.

2023

Launch of the new Turn2us 2023-28 strategy 'Tackling Financial Insecurity Together'.

Matthew's story

“We try and cut back where we can over the school holidays because we aren't able to afford to go anywhere. Sometimes it feels like we are failing our children because we can't afford to take them on days out when on paper we have 'good jobs'.”

Matthew,
Turn2us service user



Matthew, Turn2us service user.

We are a single income household, my wife is training to be a nurse and I am a recently qualified teacher, we have two children. Our rent has increased, gas and electric has gone through the roof, fuel costs for us to travel to work keep going up.

I never thought we'd be in this position but I got in touch with a Turn2us adviser who gave me the confidence to apply for more universal credit and showed me how to use the benefits calculator – and they also offered an understanding ear.

I think more people should speak up about their experience, so many people must feel alone just like we did. This is why I have been helping Turn2us with media interviews and telling our story in different ways, for example telling our family story as a graphic in The Big Issue.

Finding different platforms to speak about being in work and still struggling helps get the message across that anyone can struggle, it's not our fault, but there is help out there.



Contact us:

recruitment@turn2us.org.uk

www.turn2us.org.uk



Registered office: Hythe House, 200 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL.
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