**Please tell us why you want to become a finance officer, and why you feel Frontline is the right organisation for you?**

**Model answer – candidate with limited experience**

**What makes this great?**

I have always held a great interest in finance because it is intertwined with different aspects of life and across industries. My interest initially stemmed from enjoying Mathematics and Economics during A-levels. Whilst I have limited employment experience in this field, I am committed to learning financial theories to support decision-making, strategy and contributing towards Frontline’s mission. I am keen to use my knowledge to enable Frontline to continue their work in supporting countless children and families through innovation and exception social work practice.

Finance is vital for any charity because it allows you to understand the current economic climate, along with forecasting to make informed decisions aligned with the charity’s short-term or long-term goals. I feel empowered by the goals Frontline has and I am be determined to ensure that I can identify areas for cost reduction, plan effective budgeting, and create opportunities to maximise investments to support their aims.

The structure of this graduate scheme appeals to me because it offers the ability to shadow professionals in the industry and gain experience though practical tasks and learning principles that will support my understanding of economic systems. Furthermore, taking part in this highly coveted scheme will offer me the necessary skills and opportunities for career progression through networking. The balance of hands-on experience and learning theories is unlike comparative graduate schemes, which is ultimately why I have chosen to apply for Frontline.

My research into Frontline has exposed to me the complexities and current issues facing the social work sector. My values align strongly with the charity as I have a strong passion for ensuring that children’s opportunities are not impacted by their circumstances. I strive to support this meaningful and worthwhile cause by ensuring Frontline is in the best financial position to make as far-reaching impact as possible.

The applicant has clearly outlined a commitment to the field they are applying to, in this case finance. They have shared what has helped inform their interest in the field and expressed motivation to develop in this area.

This final paragraph demonstrates a commitment to the values required for this role, and we expect to see similar from applicants to Approach Social Work. Social work is challenging, and you should convey a deep commitment to helping children and families within your application.

This paragraph shows an understanding of the importance of the role for the company. When applying to Approach Social Work, it helps to demonstrate an understanding of social issues that impact the social work sector.

The applicant has taken care to address all parts of the question, including why Frontline is the right organisation for them. This can often be overlooked in applications to Approach Social Work – we want to see that you have researched our programme and understand what makes it unique and the best option for you.

**Please tell us why you want to become a finance officer, and why you feel Frontline is the right organisation for you?**

**What makes this great?**

**Model answer – candidate with more experience**

I am interested in becoming a finance officer at Frontline because it presents the perfect opportunity for me to integrate my strong passion for youth development and social causes with years of experience in financial strategy and implementation.

Frontline, as England’s largest social work charity, has an undeniable track record of making social work better for children and families across the country. Supporting and advocating for young people is a core value of mine. I use my spare time outside of work sitting on a youth charity’s board of trustees, providing strategic direction and support in budgeting and financial operations. My first-hand expertise in financial management in the charity sector will allow me to make a considerable positive impact as a finance officer as I understand the unique challenges and competing priorities of the sector.

My most recent role in London Borough of Camden as Finance Associate included playing a key role in implementing the local authority’s financial strategy and ensuring assets were used effectively to support citizens, especially vulnerable communities such as children in need and their families. In this role, I line managed a small team and led on a project of redesigning our risk management processes as an organization. This experience demonstrates my strong leadership and project management skills, and my ability to improve financial operations leading to better outcomes, ultimately enabling organisations such as Frontline to achieve their goals and objectives.

I strongly believe that children are the future and ensuring they are kept safe from harm is integral to a brighter future. Working at Frontline would aid my commitment to leading a purpose-driven and meaningful career, especially in youth development. I believe my honed skillset in financial strategy and leadership would make me a great addition to the team at Frontline.

This final paragraph demonstrates a commitment to the values required for this role, and we expect to see similar from applicants to Approach Social Work. Social work is challenging, and you should convey a deep commitment to helping children and families within your application.

This paragraph links the candidates experience to competencies that are relevant for the role they are applying for, in this case leadership.

The applicant has clearly outlined a commitment to both the role and the organisation they are applying for. They have shared what has helped inform their interest in the field and linked this to the experience they can bring.

This can often be overlooked in applications to Approach Social Work – we want to see that you have researched our programme and understand what makes it unique and the best option for you.