

### **Overview - Justlife Brighton**

The team provide holistic, responsive and flexible support to people with the aim of helping their experience of housing vulnerability be as short, safe and healthy as possible. This includes health engagement work improving access to primary care, helping clients improve and maintain their health along with support specifically for those in temporary accommodation in the city. Justlife also engages in research into the effects of living in temporary accommodation, which informs our work locally, as well as enabling us to have conversations on a wider scale to bring about positive change.

### **A) Job Summary – Health Engagement Worker**

The role of Health Engagement Worker will involve supporting a caseload of people that are experiencing homelessness. The role requires the use of specialist knowledge and relationship skills to influence people with varying degrees of mental health, addiction and trauma related issues to engage with health services.

This will include advocacy in registering them for medical services and accompanying them to appointments; assisting them in addressing all aspects of physical and mental health or substance addiction needs, as well as advocating for them to get access to source housing and social security benefits. Working collaboratively with our partners Arch Healthcare the role is dependent on good communication and joint working with a variety of partners and professionals.

The role requires a high degree of motivation to support complex and vulnerable people, often in a lone-working situation. With a passion to work collaboratively with others for the good of our service users, and with some experience of working in a related field in a voluntary or paid capacity.

A high degree of emotional intelligence is required to support people, many of whom have complex emotional needs, with backgrounds of trauma, neglect, abuse, crime and low self-worth. A role of this nature will experience a range of emotions from joy to grief and as such requires a high degree of resilience to cope with the emotional demands of the role.

Making decisions “in the moment” to do the right thing to mitigate risk with service users can place high emotional demands on the job holder. The role is highly reactive, unpredictable and at times, chaotic. The role therefore requires a high degree of self-awareness to one’s own resilience levels and exercising appropriate levels of self-care.

## **B) Job Description**

### **Service Delivery**

1. Using frontline practical and procedural knowledge of working with complex service users to support them to engage with health care services during their housing vulnerability. This could include, but is not limited to;
  - a) Assisting them in addressing housing, financial, health or wellbeing needs
  - b) Accompanying them to appointments
  - c) Connecting them with appropriate support services such as substance misuse services or food banks
  - d) Collaborating with agencies such as the local authority, housing providers and support services
  - e) Advocating on behalf of the service users to access medical care, housing and benefits.
  - f) Maintaining regular contact, a listening ear and emotional support during times of crisis
  - g) Helping increase their self-confidence and self-efficacy to improve their chances of moving on from homelessness
  - h) Manage own calendar to deliver a caseload during periods of work-related pressure, including actively pursuing the project outcomes set for the project and individual clients.
  - i) Use interpersonal and communication skills to provide support to service users and collaborate with others including colleagues, partner agencies, health care professionals and external agencies.
  - j) Take duty of care seriously by assessing the service users social and environmental conditions, drawing out and passing on relevant information to and from healthcare professionals, ensuring client confidentiality is maintained.
  - k) Use of excellent writing skills to prepare and submit housing applications along with a good working knowledge of housing legislation in order to advocate on behalf of service users.
  - l) Support delivery of the activities programme where needed.
  - m) Brief and liaise with other members of the team and external agencies regarding service users, enabling them to effectively carry out their roles.
  - n) To record all service user data on the Inform system within the standards set by the organisation.
  - o) Carry out light physical tasks, such as travelling to visit people, shopping or lifting office equipment.
  - p) Oversee work streams within the project as directed by the Project Lead.

### **Service Development**

- a) Collaborate with the Hospital Homeless Team, maintain good standards of support for patients as well as good communication with hospital staff and the weekday in-reach team.

- b) Contribute to initiatives that seek to influence service improvements, implement changes and develop new interventions and support for clients.
- c) Provide reports and case studies when requested.
- d) To be part of and contribute to the Justlife staff team, attending meetings as appropriate and to be involved in appropriate staff development, training, supervision and reflective practice as well as continuing professional development and training events where appropriate and be committed to team events.

### **Research**

- a) Supporting the wider Justlife vision to feed into research and help develop the service including the involvement of service users in design and delivery of the service.

*This job description is intended as an outline indicator of general areas of activity and will be amended in light of the changing needs of Justlife. It is expected that the post holder will be as positive and flexible as possible in using this document as a framework, and in performing other duties commensurate with these responsibilities, the band of the post and skills and qualification of the post-holder.*

## **C) Person Specification**

### **Experience**

- Experience of working with vulnerable adults (those experiencing homelessness or housing vulnerability, or a comparable client group)
- Experience of working with drug and alcohol dependent adults or those experiencing poor mental health

### **Skills**

- Care, empathy and skilled in dealing with emotionally vulnerable service users
- Excellent ability to engage with service users in an empowering manner
- Effective communication; written and oral skills
- Effective administrative and IT skills
- Excellent organisational skills

### **Knowledge**

- Demonstrate knowledge of assessment, support planning and interventions that help clients experiencing homelessness or housing vulnerability to become and stay healthy.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the challenges and solutions to working with a client group who may be experiencing one or more of the following: poor health (physical and mental), substance misuse and homelessness.

- An understanding of health and safety policies and procedures that aim to keep staff and clients safe.

## **Personal Attributes**

- Commitment to equal opportunities in our service delivery
- High self-awareness and the ability to maintain personal well-being through periods of pressure and stress
- Ability to be self-motivated and work well in a team or as a lone worker
- Commitment to the values of Justlife;
  - Collaboration before competition
  - People before programmes
  - Innovation before Institution

## **Employment Terms and Conditions**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Job Title:                | Health Engagement Worker   |
| Hours:                    | 22.5 hrs per week (We can be slightly flexible on number of hours) |
| Contract Type/Term:       | Permanent  |
| Normal hrs. to be worked: | Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm  |
| Location:                 | Brighton   |
| Salary:                   | £ 26,325 pro rata  |

- 1) Full time annual leave entitlement is 27 days plus bank holidays.
- 2) This role requires an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and a barred list check.
- 3) Relevant training opportunities, monthly supervision from line manager and external supervision provided.
- 4) Further employment conditions are detailed in the employment contract, which is available to view upon request.

Closing date for applications: **5pm Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Interview dates week commencing: **12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Please send applications by email to: [recruitment@justlife.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@justlife.org.uk)

### ***Please note:***

*You will receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt of your application via email when submitted. Shortlisting will take place w/c **28<sup>th</sup> June**. If you do not hear from us by **5pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** please assume your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion. **As Justlife is a small organisation we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful shortlisting.***

*Justlife is an equal opportunities employer and considers all applications received.*