



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Service User Network (SUN) Group Facilitator / Peer Support Worker
Service	General Practice Integrated Mental Health Service (GPimhs) Surrey Heartlands
Employer	Community Connections Surrey - Catalyst Support
Reports to	Head of Operations
Salary	£26,000 pa
Contract Type	Fixed Term Contract for 1 year initially. Contract may be extended, depending on funding.
Hours	37 per week. Evening or weekend work may be required.
Base	Various locations in Surrey
Overall Project	<p>NHS England recently announced a new transformation fund to be allocated to pilot sites within 12 Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships / Integrated Care Systems across the country to test new and integrated models of primary and community mental health care. Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership is one of these successful pilot sites.</p> <p>One of the elements of this new approach to supporting people in their communities is focused on people with some of the difficulties associated with a diagnosis of Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder and includes close partnership working between Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and a specialist mental health third sector organisation.</p>
Job Purpose	The Peer Support Worker will be working closely with a mental health practitioner to deliver regular Service User



	<p>Network (SUN) groups in different community-based locations across Surrey.</p> <p>The SUN (Service User Network) is an initiative aimed at improving services for people with personality disorders.</p> <p>The SUN provides community-based, open access peer support groups and aims to help people develop effective ways of coping, reduce emergencies and improve access to appropriate services.</p> <p>Those accessing the SUN may or may not have a formal diagnosis of personality disorder however, all members will have experienced longstanding emotional difficulties, isolation and are very likely to demonstrate unhelpful patterns of behaviour.</p> <p>Fundamental to creating empowerment and engagement in the SUN Project is the therapeutic community principle, that the effectiveness of the service depends upon engaging group members in the task of running, delivery, development and evaluation of the service. The utilisation of SUN members' own resources and expertise is integral to the model of peer support upon which the SUN groups are based. Peer support workers will have regular supervision and support in this role.</p>
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MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To work alongside a Mental Health Practitioner (MHP) and deliver regular SUN groups in the community.



- To work in collaboration with the MHP and the SUN members to:
 - promote peer support and reduce isolation;
 - improve coping skills of its members;
 - reduce the number of crises that require urgent and unplanned responses from services;
 - facilitate access to other services and sources of support.
- To use own wisdom of lived experience of Personality Disorder / personality difficulties, to support the development and knowledge of people using the service.
- To follow the protocols and guidelines for effective working.
- To take full responsibility for understanding and applying professional boundaries.
- To ensure that any potential risk is being constantly assessed within a culture of positive risk taking.
- To contribute information regarding the safety and wellbeing of the people who access the service.
- To assist people in understanding their rights and choices within the service.
- To encourage and motivate people to take an active role in their own recovery.
- To positively promote and support independence for people in the community.
- To actively contribute towards the evaluation of the service.
- To keep up to date documentation and take on all the necessary administrative duties.
- To report any areas of concern to the senior team, in line with Risk Management Policy.
- To actively engage in clinical and managerial supervisions.
- To undertake all the required training in line with the development of the post and as agreed with the manager.



- To maintain up to date knowledge of legislation, national and local policies and issues in relation to Personality Disorder, peer support and mental health.
- To attend clinical, business and service development meetings as required.
- To assist in the promotion of the service through active liaison, meetings, and presentations with people who access services, staff and other organisations.
- To comply with all relevant policies, procedures and guidelines.
- To undertake any relevant duties as requested.
- To attend any relevant training as and when required.

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS:

Area	Requirements	
	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Commitment to undertake training on THE SUN protocols and methods and obtain knowledge regarding mental health with specific focus on Personality Disorder (PD) and the recovery approach.	X	
Completed an accredited peer support training or coaching.		X
Any relevant training / qualifications in mental health field		X
Knowledge and Experience	Essential	Desirable



Personal lived experience of Personality Disorder or personality difficulties.	X	
Previous experience of voluntary or paid employment.	X	
Paid or unpaid experience of support worker/training/teaching or coaching others.		X
Knowledge of PD, mental health issues and recovery approach.	X	
Willingness to positively share your own life experiences and personal experiences of mental ill health as part of the coaching role.	X	
Good understanding of mental health services		X
Ability to guide others in taking charge of their own recovery.	X	
Skills	Essential	Desirable
Ability to understand and create healthy boundaries.	X	
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and ability to form peer relationships with people accessing services.	X	
Ability to be non-judgmental, demonstrate empathy, compassion and patience.	X	
Practical experience in facilitating / co-facilitating groups	X	
Ability to remain calm and respond in a professional manner to distress, disturbance and unpredictability.	X	
Sensitive understanding of diversity issues and ability to promote anti-discriminatory practice and equal-opportunities.	X	
Ability to work co-operatively as part of a multidisciplinary team (statutory and voluntary) from different locations and	X	



to travel to and from a number of different locations on a daily basis.		
Ability to engage effectively in supervision and to be able to raise concerns or personal difficulties which may affect the work being undertaken	X	
Additional	Essential	Desirable
Proficient in Microsoft Word, use of email, Outlook, and basic excel skills.	X	
Ability to enter data onto a database as required by the Service.	X	
Ability to use / learn on-line social communication platforms (Teams, Zoom) and willingness to run groups on-line as well as face to face.	X	