****Community Engagement Practitioner

Job Description

**Job Title:** Community Engagement Practitioner

**Service:** Fife Mental Health & Wellbeing

**Hours and work pattern:** 37 hour contract, working flexibility 8am – 10pm, 5 days over 7

**Reports to:** Team manager **Direct Reports:** 0

**Financial Accountability:** Low **Salary:** starting salary £23,875.00

**Holiday entitlement:** starting at 28 days per annum and 9 public holidays

**Base:** Includem, Unit L, Telford Road, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 4NX

**Purpose of Role**

At includem we work closely with children, young people, families and services across the community to support young people to make positive life choices and progress towards the type of future they want to live. Wellbeing in Fife, in partnership with Barnardos and part of Fife’s Our Minds Matter Framework focuses specifically on providing short term 1:1 emotional and practical support and groupwork to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

The focus of the Community Engagement Practitioner is to deliver input in three key area:

* Identifying and developing local community / organisational capacity
* Developing parental/carer capacity
* Targeted interventions understanding YP’s needs, to assist them to engage with and help shape and strengthen local services

The post holder will engage effectively with children, young people, families, and partner agencies on a day-to-day basis and pro-actively seek new opportunities for partnership/collaborative working. You will model positive work practices that are accountable, positively role models and leads by example.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

The service provides support for children and young people aged 5 – 25 years (26 if care experienced) and their families in Dunfermline and South West Fife. The role focuses on building trusting relationships with young people to provide both emotional and practical support to promote positive mental health and wellbeing, to reduce distress and to be connected positively to the local community. The service will be delivered through outreach and be embedded within local communities.

The role requires you to work collaboratively with partners to link young people and families into their community and universal community resources. This framework will take a whole family and strengths-based approach, providing support through 1:1 intervention and groupwork for children, young people, and families. The role will also require you to deliver group sessions to partners to build community capacity and work with parents / carers to build confidence in having confident conversations about positive mental health.

**Duties include:**

* Building quality relationships which support and empower children, young people, and families to develop and have ownership of interventions which improve their emotional health and wellbeing
* Review pending enquiries from the mailbox, responding appropriately and timely to referrals.
* Using a strengths-based approach to empower individuals facing adversity to find solutions and make positive changes, ensuring resources are in place to sustain these changes
* Identifying appropriate group work sessions based around young people self-identified issues and work with community partners to develop and facilitate
* Ensuring practice within 1:1 and groupwork is aligned with strengths principles is family centred and rights based.
* Providing a whole family approach to consolidate change and provide the support the whole family needs for its members wellbeing
* Understanding the different coping mechanisms that young people and their families use to deal with stress and high emotions, and to respond appropriately
* Working collaboratively with children, young people and families, key stakeholders, and external partners towards the achievement of shared goals and objectives.
* Attend multi-agency meetings if required
* Utilising a range of approaches to improve relationships with family and peers including restorative practice and Solihull Approach
* Supporting children and young people to build an individualised plan with realistic goals and achievable steps
* Assessing and responding appropriately to situations where children, young people and families may be at risk of harm.
* Responding to children, young people, and families. and working in collaboration with others to ensure families have the required range of support they need through universal and statutory agencies.
* Identifying universal/specialist supports and support children, young people, and families to access and engage, providing practical support e.g., getting to appointments/groups and barrier reduction.
* Taking direction from your team manager and participate in deployment to ensure time is used effectively to meet the needs of children, young people and families.
* Develop and maintain connections with local communities and neighbourhoods to support families to sustain positive change.
* Be accountable for the quality of support and be able to evidence this work effectively.
* Support participation of children, young people, and families. in quality assurance practices, service improvement and Fife-wide identification of gaps and further commissioning design.
* Promote groups and events on social media Working with community groups, parents, volunteers, staff to understand how to increase their confidence and capability to support a YP with a mental health or wellbeing need
* Contribute to community events
* Providing a ‘bridging’ service to introduce YP and parents to any organisations providing support, to ensure engagement

**Additional Information**

You will need a **full driving license and access to your own car for work purposes.**

**Qualifications**

* You will be educated to [Level 7 | Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (scqf.org.uk)](https://scqf.org.uk/level-7/) or have relevant skills and experience in working with young people or young adults with mental health needs.

**Role Profile & Requirements**

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| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Experience of supporting young people with a range of complex mental health issues. | Clinical background/experience. |
| Relevant qualification. | Shows an understanding of the political factors which affect Includem’s viability. |
| Experience of delivering groupwork sessions and promotion of groups/events on social media. | Experience of delivering services to young people, young adults and / or families who have experienced significant adversity. |
| Has relevant experience in contributing to the overall strategy of an organisation, ideally within a social care and a clinical setting. | Experience of identifying, managing, escalating, and reporting of child protection concerns. |
| Experience of delivering services to vulnerable groups. |  |
| Gains the support of others through professional influence, credibility, and expertise. |  |
| Analytical, presentation and report writing skills. |  |
| Can evidence work practice that embraces equality and diversity and works well as part of a team. |  |
| Completed or willing to work towards completion of the SVQ3. |  |
| To register and maintain the relevant professional registration with the SSSC. |  |
| Candidates will require membership for the PVG scheme for children. |  |