Community Pain Champion

JOB ADVERT

Head of NHS Service Development

National (some time in Lincolnshire)

Variable (min 15-20 days per year)

Competeitive

**Reports to**

**Location**

**Work hours**

**Salary**

**THE PROBLEM?**

Painis a BIG problem. The British Medical Journal estimaes as many as **43% of the UK population are living with persistent pain**; increasing to 62% in those aged of 75 and over! (BMJ, 2016). Often, this results in significant suffering and burden to individuals, their families, communities and healthcare systems.

Given the size of the problem it is concerning that the patient and **public understanding of pain is often riddled with misconceptions**, sometimes even completely at odds with contemporary medical science. Even more worrying; in many cases healthcare design and delivery is not consistent with best-pracice and fails to reflect a modern understanding of the biological, psychological and social (*biopsychosocial*) nature of pain.

A **change is needed**, and where better to start than raising awareness, facilitating a better understanding, and **empowering communities to take back control** when it comes to living with persistent pain.

**ABOUT THE ROLE**

‘We are looking for **engaging** and **inspiring** people with a **passion** for helping people develop a better understanding of persistent pain; **empowering** communities to *re-think pain*, *re-engage* and *recover* '

As a **Community Pain Champion** you will be an advocate and spokesperson for a modern, holistic understanding of persistent pain. You will play a lead role in making contemporary pain science accessible to whole communities, adapting your approach to best suit varied audiences including the general public, people with persistent pain, and health and social care professionals.

The Community Pain Champion role is a key component of Connect’s exciting persistent pain-focused public awareness campaign, encouraging people to **re-think pain, re-engage and recover**. Influenced and endorsed by Prof. Lorimer Moseley and inspired by Pain Revolution in Australia (<https://www.painrevolution.org/>) **Pain: Do You *Get* It?** is bringing this hugely important health literacy message into local towns and neighbourhoods to engage with and inspire communities.

You’ll work as part of a team to promote, deliver and analyse the impact of our innovative, dynamic and multi-modal approach to community engagement and education.

**HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE THINGS YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN..!**

Community Outreach Campaigns

Public Engagement Events

Stakeholder Relationships ograms

Media

Engagement

A key responsibility of the Community Pain Champion role will be to lead **educational engagement events** (either individually or as part of a double-act or small team). Such events will be varied in terms of delivery style, audience, venue etc. but will have consistent objectives incl.

* Engaging and entertaining an audience
* Effectively communicating the core principles underpinning contemporary pain science
* Delivering key messages in a way that is relevant, entertaining and easily comprehensible
* Motivating, inspiring and empowering the audience
* Challenging existing beliefs and associated behaviors in a manner than is sensitive to and respectful of contrasting alternative views

**ABOUT YOU**

You could be a professional in the field of health (physical or mental) and/or social care with an **interest in persistent pain.** Alternatively you could have no related professional background but have a personal **lived experience** of persistent pain. Either way you will have a **passion for health promotion** and desire to make a difference.

‘For us, first and foremost it's about **your values:** We believe our colleagues embody our values of being dynamic, pioneering, quality and people-centred'

Because a key focus will be on upskilling and informing a large and diverse audience, a demonstrable understanding of the principles of learning (or similar) will be beneficial.

Other things we’re looking for:

* **Credibility** e.g. lived experience of, or professional status (clinical or academic) in the field of persistent pain
* **Presentation skills** A confident public speaker with ability toengage & entertain an audience
* **Knowledge** A sound understanding of contemporary pain science and a biopsychosocial framework
* **Effective communication** Competence in succicinctly sharing information, tailoring the style and approach to delivery for different audiences

**A BIT MORE INFORMATION**

This is a **brand new role** designed as part of a pioneering health promotion / health literacy movement offering you the **opportunity to influence** how it develops. In order to best achieve this some flexibility with regards to the responsibilities, nature of work and time commitment will be expected.

Some **occasional travel will be required**; either to locations where we are delivering events or to our head office in Newcastle. The first port of call for Pain: Do You Get It? will be **Lincolnshire**, coinciding with our new county-wide community pain management service.

Because the hours of work will be variable remuneration will be on a sessional basis with an agreed hourly / day rate. For internal applicants already working for Connect Health on an employed basis the Community Pain Champion role could be undertaken during or in addition to existing contracted working hours. A salary uplift may be applied depending on your existing role.

'We welcome innovation and are dedicated to continually improving ways healthcare is designed and delivered to achieve maximum impact. This includes our approach to community engagement and Primary Prevention'

**USEFUL RESOURCES**

See more about what the Pain Revolution has been up to in Australia via their website here:[**https://www.painrevolution.org/**](https://www.painrevolution.org/)

Hear what Lorimer had to say during his first visit to our Lincolnshire Community Pain Management Service

here: <https://vimeo.com/349850874/bbd86e3ad0>

and here: <https://vimeo.com/349850805/0e72a71dcf>

Watch a highlight clip of our first community engagement event in Boston, Lincolnshire here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN23Hw8lqR4&feature=youtu.be>

“My vision is that everyone will have the skills, knowledge and local access to resources to prevent and overcome persistent pain. Contemporary pain science is exciting, but to embrace it might require some courage. Therefore, I’m really happy to be working with Connect Health and the services in Lincolnshire to rethink persistent pain.”

**Prof. Lorimer Moseley. Pain Revolution, Australia**

