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**TOUCHSTONE**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**RECONNECT PEER SUPPORT WORKER SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Grade: NJC Scale Points 7-11, starting at £24,294 pa/pro-rata

Hours: Up to x3 roles available between 22.5 and 37 hours per week

Responsible to: Liaison and Diversion Volunteer & Peer Support Coordinator & Senior Qualified Practitioner

Employing Body: Touchstone – Board of Trustees

Location: South Yorkshire (Based in Doncaster)

**This role is fixed term for up to 31 March 2025, with the possibly of extension.**

**This post will include some weekend and evening work.**

**BACKGROUND**

RECONNECT is a care after custody service that seeks to improve the continuity of care of people leaving prison from HMP Doncaster, HMP Hatfield, HMP Lindholme, HMP Moorland and HMP New Hall or an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) with an identified health need, including poor mental health, substance use, learning difficulty, neurodiversity, reduce inequalities and address health-related drivers of offending behaviours. This involves working with people before they leave to support their transition to community-based services, thereby safeguarding health gains made whilst in prison or an IRC. The role will be based within the Departure Lounges at prisons in the Doncaster area and additional working in the community throughout South Yorkshire.

Peer Support Workers will get the opportunity to gain experience of working with people who have been in custody as part of an exciting new service. You will work with a team to put lived experience at the centre of delivery ensuring safe transition from prison healthcare to community healthcare. This post is open to anyone who has lived experience of being incustodyand any of the vulnerabilities listed above**.** Candidates are also required to have experience of accessing community services to support them with their vulnerabilities, post custody.

**PURPOSE OF THE ROLE**

The Peer Support Workers will provide emotional and practical support to South Yorkshire RECONNECT service users.

The post holder will:

* Develop skills in working with service users in a holistic way with a variety of social and health support needs.
* Promote and maintain good relationships and effective communication with service users, colleagues, families and carers and community partners
* Build a relationship of trust with service users and understand the importance of empowering them
* Assist service users to enable them to achieve their personalised support outcomes.
* Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a high standard of support.
* Be prepared to share own experiences and role model recovery.
* Identify barriers and gaps in services, state how they could be improved and identify good practice.
* Attend and identify appropriate training and development opportunities as required.
* Work in partnership with the Peer and Volunteer Coordinator to access personal support each week in order to improve own self-confidence to do the job and manage personal wellbeing.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. To develop and maintain positive and professional relationships with service users.
2. To provide emotional and practical support and advice to enable service users to improve their quality of life, develop their skills and make decisions about their future.
3. To support the liaison activities of the service by encouraging and motivating clients to engage with appropriate services.
4. To identify and facilitate diversionary measures by working collaboratively with service users and other members of the Liaison & Diversion and RECONNECT team.
5. To work alongside the RECONNECT frontline staff, employed by partner organisations, to assess service user’s needs, and implement individual Signs of Safety plans.
6. To accompany service users to other projects/services and external appointments.
7. To encourage and support service users to participate in meaningful activities.
8. To support service users before, during, and after attending court.
9. To respond appropriately to all service user needs to safeguard the wellbeing of all service users and staff.
10. To maintain accurate records of work undertaken with service users around their support, and any other records as required by the Volunteer & Peer Support Coordinator and Senior Qualified Practitioners.
11. To attend and participate in team meetings and other team events.
12. To liaise with external agencies as required.

**GENERAL**

1. To be inducted, supervised, performance managed and appraised in line with the organisation’s performance management policies and procedures.
2. To attend a full induction programme consisting of: development and wellbeing planning, goal setting, shadowing, and an introductory peer support training course.
3. To be responsible for personal learning and development and undertake appropriate training, both mandatory and optional to increase knowledge, skills and awareness.
4. To visit relevant external agencies who work with RECONNECT.
5. To attend regular support sessions, reflective practice, supervision and performance reviews with the Volunteer & Peer Support Coordinator, in line with the organisations performance management policies and procedures.
6. To work at all times as part of a team. This includes working with other staff, attending team and staff meetings and developing a teamwork approach to all aspects of the organisation’s work.
7. To be flexible in the approach to hours of work including evening and weekend work as required by the service.
8. To be aware of and employ the general practices of SWYPT/Touchstone regarding safeguarding, and health and safety policies and ensure these are adhered to at all times.
9. To operate within the aims, policies and practices of SWYPT/Touchstone at all times and to be committed to and promote the organisations equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory policies.
10. To ensure information is dealt with in accordance with SWYPT/Touchstone policies around confidentiality, communications, internet, e-mail and telecommunications, and steps are taken to ensure that confidential information is secure e.g. service user data.
11. To keep the Volunteer & Peer Support Coordinator informed about any serious and untoward incidents, safeguarding, health and safety, and/or financial issues.
12. To ensure that Data Protection, Health & Safety, Complaints Handling and Corporate Governance requirements are met.
13. To undertake any other duties as directed by the Volunteer & Peer Support Coordinator in line with the responsibilities of the post.

June 2024