

Mental Health Outreach Worker

March 2024

Hertfordshire Mind Network
Watford Wellbeing Centre
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Mental Health Outreach Worker

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your enquiry about the above post.

This pack contains the Job Advertisement, Job Description and Person Specification. For more information about the role and our services, please see our website at <https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/mental-health-outreach-worker-2/>

To apply, please submit your CV and a supporting statement as to why you are suitable for the role. Clearly state your address, e-mail address, telephone number and whether you have a driving license and whether you own a vehicle.

Being able to drive and having access to your own vehicle is essential for this role.

Please return applications to Rebecca Mullane at the above address or by email to recruitment@hertsmindnetwork.org

Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 22nd April at 5pm.

Interviews will be held on a rolling basis.

We reserve the right to close this vacancy early if we receive sufficient applications for the role. Therefore, if you are interested, please submit your application as early as possible.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Mullane
Services Manager – Dual Diagnosis Partnerships

Our Vision, Purpose and Values

Our vision

“Every person in Hertfordshire will feel supported with their mental health.”

Our purpose

1. We fight for the mental health of every person in Hertfordshire.
2. We provide mental health support, opportunity, advocacy and resources.
3. We will elevate and promote the voice of those with lived experience of mental ill health.

Our values



Hope - We believe in potential, possibility and opportunity. We embrace a culture of curiosity and sustainability. We believe in choice, freedom, change and a better future for every person experiencing mental ill health.

Courage - We are determined, bold and unstoppable. We welcome transformation and innovation, advocate for improvement and influence change in Hertfordshire’s mental health system. We are resilient and speak loudly in the face of adversity and inequality, and we fight tirelessly for mental health.

Together - Coproduction is at the heart of our organisation. Together we share learning, build relationships and connect with others. We work in partnership with individuals, voluntary sector and statutory services, local organisations and companies, to generate new ideas and promote inclusion and diversity and a better understanding of mental health across our community.

Responsive - We are open and transparent. We take time to listen, to learn, to share and to act. We adjust to change, make timely decisions and are both respectful and inclusive.

Job Description

Job title:	Mental Health Outreach Worker
Reference Number:	205
Salary scale:	£24,000 - £25,000 per annum incl. Outer London Weighting (OLW) In addition, this role will have a yearly staff retention bonus of up to £2106. This payment is allocated at the discretion of HMN.
Reports to:	Complex Needs Housing Team Leader
Contract length:	One Year
No. of hours:	37.5 hours per week (Full time, Monday – Friday)
Main base/s:	Letchworth Wellbeing Centre
Checks needed:	Enhanced DBS and 2 satisfactory references

Background of Post

This is a pilot working as a multi-disciplinary team with housing teams and Drug and Alcohol Services across District and Borough councils. These teams will be working with individuals who are presenting as homeless and have a number of Complex Needs.

Purpose of Post

- To provide advice, information, onward referral and holistic support to clients who are experiencing mental ill health or need support with their mental wellbeing. These will be clients who are presenting to District and Borough councils as homeless and need intervention and support with their mental health.
- To ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the client is monitored and reviewed regularly.
- To remain a source of independent support for all clients.
- Embed a person centred recovery orientated and trauma informed approach in all aspects of the roles.

Service Objectives:

The objectives of Hertfordshire Mind Complex Needs MDT are:

- To improve the mental wellbeing of people experiencing mental ill health.
- To increase early access to help for people experiencing mental ill health in, by providing a clear and effective pathway to services provided by Herts Mind Network and other third sector and statutory providers.
- To contribute to an improvement in individual mental wellbeing.
- To remain a source of independent support for all clients.
- To reduce the use of police, ASB, tenancy enforcement, housing needs and environmental health services by clients whose primary need is related to mental ill health.
- To reduce the use of crisis services by people experiencing mental ill health without positive outcomes for the individual.
- To provide an assertive outreach approach for clients who are in crisis and/ or those that may have complex or multiple needs.

- To work collaboratively within an MDT consisting of CGL, District and Borough councils, housing teams and other professionals.

Accountability

You will be line managed by the Complex Needs Housing Team Leader for Hertfordshire Mind but will manage your own workload, prioritising tasks and working on your own initiative.

Key Responsibilities

- To receive referrals from the housing teams for clients presenting with homelessness and other Complex Needs.
- To undertake initial contact with clients and complete a holistic needs assessment, making use of assertive outreach work to achieve the initial client contact, if required.
- To provide holistic support and advocacy services to clients experiencing mental ill health.
- Ensure all person centred risk assessments and support plans are completed as appropriate.
- To accompany clients to initial visits and appointments as necessary in order to ensure the sustained use of existing support services in the Borough.
- To liaise with other agencies to ensure that clients receive appropriate support and continue to remain engaged with the service.
- To assist clients to access appropriate mental health services, drug and alcohol services, housing/tenancy services and other services according to assessed needs.
- To establish effective pathways across a variety of agencies to maximise and provide effective partnership working.
- To work with partners both internal and external to ensure that vulnerable person's cases are monitored and risks evaluated in order to promote community safety.
- To work with multi agency partners to support the delivery of co-ordinated services for clients where appropriate.
- To work with the third sector and signpost to other agencies as necessary to improve the health and wellbeing of clients referred to the service.
- Proactively recognise the indicators of deteriorating mental health and facilitate appropriate action, whilst liaising with relevant agencies.
- To provide crisis/safeguarding intervention support. This will include responding to problems, which pose an immediate risk.
- Support clients to build their emotional resilience and crisis planning tools, promoting self-management through building an understanding of their own triggers/coping strategies.
- To provide advocacy where requested by clients, accompanying them and ensuring their voice is heard when communicating with other agencies.

To assist in the development of the service by:

- Representing HMN at external meetings, and network locally to develop contacts, services and raise HMN's profile.
- Encouraging a culture of continuous performance improvement at both an individual and service level.
- Building a service that is flexible and adaptable to changing requirements.
- Participating in training and development opportunities as agreed with the Services Manager.

- Overseeing the effectiveness of appropriate care pathways for all service users.

General

- To ensure compliance with legal, ethical, regulatory and social requirements.
- To adhere to all Hertfordshire Mind Covid 19 precautionary measures.
- To manage personal resources and own professional development.
- To ensure all duties are carried out in a manner which promotes equality and diversity.
- To promote a health and safety culture within the workplace, observe all health and safety rules and procedures as required and where appropriate conduct risk assessments.
- Ensure that essential information of a sensitive or personal nature is not disclosed to or discussed with inappropriate persons.
- All information must be maintained within the Data Protection Act.
- To be an active and effective team member.
- To work some hours outside of normal office hours (including evenings and weekends).
- At all times to carry out every aspect of your duties with due regard to Herts Mind Network's (HMN) policies and procedures including the Equalities Statement.
- To ensure (HMN) values are embedded in the service.
- To maintain a professional level of communication at all times.
- To keep clear records and plans of all contacts with clients, professionals and meetings with external agencies.
- Maintain full accountability to the project through supervision.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably determined by line management, the CEO or Board of Directors.
- Full training for the role will be offered.

Total staff overseen

- As the service develops, there may be line management responsibility for volunteers.

Person Specification - Mental Health Outreach Worker	Essential/ Desirable
Experience	
A good understanding of mental health conditions	E
Experience of working with vulnerable individuals	E
Experience of working with those affected by housing difficulties	E
Experience of managing a caseload	E
Evidence of working to deadlines, and achieving outcomes against targets	E
Creative and flexible approach to working with individuals	E
Demonstrable understanding of relevant legislation and policies in regards to child and adult at risk protection issues and legal responsibilities, such as the Data Protection Act, Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, Child Protection	E
Skills and abilities	
Excellent communication skills and ability to develop effective working relationships at all levels	E
Ability to work on own initiative whilst retaining teamwork responsibility	E
Ability to work within the principles of equal opportunities and diversity	E

Maintain personal and professional boundaries	E
To maintain confidentiality and adhere to data protection requirements	E
An understanding of partnership working and the ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary/agency team	E
Ability to deal with stressful and difficult situations in a calm manner	E
Ability to work flexibly, independently and autonomously and prioritise and manage own workload including meeting targets and deadlines	E
Knowledge/Qualifications	
A professional qualification or equivalent degree related to mental health, health or social care	D
Knowledge and understanding of housing processes	E
Understanding of the principles of advocacy	E
Understanding of risk assessment and safety planning	E
Evidence of continual professional development	E
Practical	
Excellent IT skills including Word, Outlook, Excel and Teams, with proven ability to input and extract information into online databases.	E
Ability to learn new digital systems quickly	E
Car driver with sole ownership of a vehicle and a clean driving license and willingness to travel to locations countywide	E
Personal Circumstances	
Ability to work unsocial hours to deliver this service	E
Show flexibility in working location due to the requirement to provide services around Hertfordshire	E



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