



## **SUICIDE PREVENTION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (SPDO)**

### **Job Description**

The post holder will be responsible for the delivery of work in line with key strategic drivers including:

- PROTECT LIFE 2 - Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan
- MAKING LIFE BETTER Framework 2012 - 23
- Please note: **THIS JOB DESCRIPTION WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAY INCLUDE OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS MAY BE DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE JOB HOLDER. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RIGID AND INFLEXIBLE, BUT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS PROVIDING GUIDELINES WITHIN WHICH THE POSTHOLDER WORKS.**

### **Remit of Post Holders**

- Identification of factors contributing to the higher rates of suicide and self-harm in identified areas/groups.
- Work in collaboration with relevant colleagues and other stakeholders to build capacity in communities (geographic and/or community of interest) to address suicide prevention and the wider determinants of suicide and mental ill health.
- Support communities to develop evidence-based promoting mental health and suicide prevention programmes.
- Raise awareness of suicide and self harm issues giving priority to:
  - areas of higher prevalence rates
  - population groups at higher risk of suicide or self harm
- Encourage and support community organisations to apply to grants programmes.
- Contribute to developing the capacity of community and voluntary organisations to grow and provide services in the local area.
- Work in partnership with stakeholders including the Public Health Agency: Northern Protecting Life Implementation Group Partners and sub groups, PHA Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator, PHA & NHSCT Health Improvement Officers/Co-ordinators, Voluntary Sector, Private Sector, Community Networks, Primary Care and other key partners to monitor progress and ensure that action is targeted on current and emerging areas of most need and/or crisis.

- Contribute to performance measurement including establishment of baseline information and ongoing monitoring of work being undertaken.
- Educate communities in the early recognition of risk factors and to sign post to appropriate support services
- Contribute to the development of coordinated, effective, accessible and timely response mechanisms for those seeking help.
- Work with key local stakeholders to achieve optimum utilisation and development of resources for reducing suicide and self harm.
- Liaise with local GPs, and statutory and voluntary providers to help identify ways of increasing knowledge of, and access to, community mental health services among harder to reach groups.

## **Requirements for Post Holders**

### **Essential Criteria**

- A University degree or/and diploma in Health, Youth, Education, Social, Environmental or Behavioural Sciences + a minimum of 3 years experience in field of either health, youth work, community development or project delivery
- Understanding of determinants of health and well being.
- Knowledge of evidenced based mental health promotion and suicide prevention approaches.
- Knowledge of policies and strategies which affect mental health promotion and suicide prevention.
- Understanding and experience of community development approaches.
- Understanding and experience of how to assess health and well being information, needs and outcomes.
- Experience of multi-sectoral and partnership working.
- High level communication and organisational skills.
- Experience of working on own initiative and as part of team in project delivery.
- Experience of contributing to performance measurement.
- Have access to transport to fulfil the requirements of the post

### **Desirable**

- Understanding of local cross sector mental health service provision and other local support

## PERSONNEL SPECIFICATION

Factor	Minimum Criteria	How will information be obtained
<b>1. ATTAINMENTS</b> (General and Higher Education. Professional/ Management Training. Relevant Experience etc).	A university degree or/and diploma in Health, Youth, Education, Social, Environmental or Behavioural Sciences + a minimum of 3 years experience in field of either health, youth work, community development or project delivery	Application form
<b>2. KNOWLEDGE AND INTERESTS</b>	<p>Understanding of determinants of health and well being.</p> <p>Knowledge of evidenced based mental health promotion and suicide prevention approaches.</p> <p>Knowledge of policies and strategies which affect mental health promotion and suicide prevention.</p> <p>Understanding and Experience of community development approaches.</p> <p>Understanding and experience of how to assess health and well being information, needs and outcomes.</p> <p>Experience of multi-sectoral and partnership working.</p> <p>Experience of performance measurement.</p>	Application form and Interview

<p><b>3. SPECIAL APTITUDES</b> (Dexterity, numeracy, computer literacy, ability to drive, communication etc.)</p>	<p>An ability to communicate effectively to meet the needs of the post including the ability to produce and present high quality papers and reports.</p> <p>An ability to analyse and use data.</p> <p>An ability to work on own initiative and also as part of a team and to perform to a high standard</p> <p>An ability to prioritise plans and organize and manage own workload.</p> <p>A current full driving license (valid for use in UK) and access to a car on appointment. *This Criteria will be waived in the case of applicants whose disability prohibits driving but who have access to a form of transport approved by the Board which will permit the successful applicant to carry out duties of the post.</p>	<p>Application form and interview</p>
<p><b>4. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES</b> (Requirement to live-in, shift working, job sharing)</p>	<p>The post holder will be expected to participate in any necessary activities outside normal office hours as required etc.</p>	<p>Interview</p>
<p><b>5. DESIRABLE</b></p>	<p>Understanding of local cross sector mental health service provision and other local support</p>	<p>Application form and Interview</p>