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**Community Connector/Social Prescribing Link Worker -** Staying Well and SWITCH

## Job Description and Person Specification

**Job title:** Community Connector/Social Prescribing Link Worker – Staying Well and SWITCH

**Salary:** £27,000 per annum (pro rata). Travel expenses can be claimed on top of regular daily commute.

**Hours**: 22-30 hours per week

**Contract**: Fixed term to 31 March 2025 in the first instance

**Location**: Cannock, with occasional travel to Stoke-on-Trent and access to Support Staffordshire Office, Stafford

**Line Manager:** Senior Social Prescribng Link Worker – Cannock North

**Line Management of:** n/a

**Budget/Income:** n/a

**Standard Disclosure Required:** Yes

**Barred List Check Required (regulated activity only):** n/a

**Job Overview:** The post holder is responsible for working with patients through the Staying Well Service in the Cannock District and the SWITCH *(SWITCH: Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent’s Weight-related Interventions Tailored in Care for Health: Specialist Obesity Care and Treatment Pilot)* in the Cannock and Stoke-on-Trent Districts, utilising an appointment-based system. Their role will be to connect patients in with various statutory and non-statutory organisations, supporting them holistically with their health and wellbeing and will have a key focus on working with patients who are mild to moderately frail, or are accessing clinical support surrounding obesity, through the SWITCH programme. They will need to liaise with MPFT and Support Staffordshire colleagues and build relationships with the local voluntary sector to offer as broad a service as possible and be involved in MDT meetings. They will need to monitor their work and report upon its impact.

**Key Responsibilities:**

1. Ensuring Support Staffordshire services are consistent with our stated values.
2. Ensuring where appropriate, that volunteers are involved in delivering our services.
3. Ensuring effective cross-organisation working in order to meet our aims and objectives.
4. Delivery of the Cannock community connecting/social prescribing service through the Staying Well Service and SWITCH Weight Management Service. Being a contact Patient meetings (whether face to face or over the telephone) will include assessment of patient assets, needs, and current wellbeing.
5. Basic follow-up support to patients to support and enable them to take up and maintain access to ‘prescribed’ services with confidence.
6. Liaison with Support Staffordshire and use of the Support Staffordshire VCSE Directory, as well as Staffordshire Connects and other local directories, to ensure awareness of local provision.
7. Liaison with MPFT and involvement within their MDT (multi-disciplinary teams) meetings, to integrate the service as fully as possible.
8. Liaison with other SWITCH Community Connectors to support and develop monitoring and evaluation tools, which can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot.
9. Recording patient engagement and completing monitoring and patient records as required. Compiling quarterly reports of activity in line with funding agreements.
10. To contribute to intelligence on local community gaps and needs which can be addressed through Support Staffordshire’s VCSE sector development activities.
11. Ensuring where appropriate, that volunteers are involved in delivering our services, specifically through the recruitment of Volunteer Buddies.
12. To undertake specific training related to SWITCH Weigh Management, including Healthy Weight Coaching
13. To undertake any other duties, commensurate to the post, as determined by the line manager.

**Person Specification: Community Connector/Social Prescribing Link Worker**

1. Able to demonstrate Key Skills required of all Support Staffordshire staff
* Positive work ethic, dependable and conscientious
* Flexibility, use of initiative and good time management
* Collaborative and outcome focussed
* Working to plans, policies & procedures
* Applies equality of opportunity
* Proactive in personal development

2. At least 1-2 year’s direct experience of offering an information, advice and guidance service in a health, care, relevant voluntary sector or similar setting. Experience of an asset-based, person-centred, enabling, and motivational but non-dependency ethos is strongly preferable.

3. Knowledge and appreciation of a wide range of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) services, ideally in the local area. Willingness to learn and develop this knowledge to keep it up to date and connected with Support Staffordshire.

4. Able to manage a large and complex caseload without confusion or stress.

5. Ability to develop new or updated systems which are simple and integrated with existing established systems. Able to work well with clinical and administrative disciplines to implement new procedures and systems seamlessly.

6. Experience of utilising monitoring and evaluation tools, to build an evidence base surrounding the effectiveness of a service.

7. Sound IT skills, including database use for finding and recording information.

8. Volunteer management experience or willingness to learn.

9. Experience of working in partnership across organisational boundaries.

10. Experience of supporting individuals surrounding excess weight and obesity would be desirable, but not essential