

Job Description

Post title:	Community Accelerator (across Medway and Swale)
Hours of work:	24 hours weekly, flexible hours to be agreed (some evening and weekend working may be required)
Salary:	£28,000 (pro-rata) annually
Contract:	Fixed term until March 2025 (upon completion of a satisfactory 3 month probation period) with the potential for extension
Responsible to:	Engagement and Action Officer
Location:	Medway Voluntary Action, Chatham

It is anticipated that the post holders will spend significant periods of time within communities in Medway and Swale

Role Description

Aims

To facilitate, accelerate and demonstrate the impact of the exciting and innovative Community Health Catalyst programme across Medway and Swale, by supporting communities that have engaged in the Programme to deliver measurable and meaningful outcomes.

Working closely with the VCS in Medway and Swale and directly with members of communities experiencing the greatest health inequalities (Core 20 PLUS 5 priority groups), support them to develop their ideas and support them to secure funding to empower the community to create and implement innovative projects to improve their health and wellbeing.

We are looking for a driven and motivated individual with a passion for working with local communities and who would like to be part of a growing campaign to reduce health inequalities.

The successful candidate will be dynamic and flexible and committed to offering accessible and inclusive support to work alongside communities and people from all walks of life.

Responsibilities

Listening

- Where appropriate attend the Listening Events organised by the Community Activators to engage with communities during the research phase of the Programme.
- Use the learning from the listening events to support opportunities to develop meaningful outcomes.
- Identify potential community champions to empower the development of projects to reduce health inequalities locally.

Acceleration

- Be a positive role model who builds good rapport and trusting relationships with leaders, members and groups within communities.
- Use a variety of means to engage with community leaders and members, such as digital tools, including social media platforms and traditional media.
- Empower local people to individually engage with the 'Local Asset Signposting and Solutions Plan' and to pursue any relevant opportunities, ensuring it is an effective tool.
- Work across the local area to build community alliances that bring together local VCS groups to collectively support people affected by health inequalities.
- Help identify short-term strategies for improving wellbeing in priority groups by accessing prescription funding available through the Community Health Catalyst Programme.
- Empower community leaders, members and groups to co-create projects which deliver meaningful outcomes and sustainable change by reducing health inequalities in target priority groups set out by Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership.
- Support community groups to identify funding opportunities and develop the skills required to apply for Kent and Medway Community Chest and other funding which will enable them to deliver sustainable projects to reduce health inequalities.
- Responsible for supporting the creation of meaningful outcomes identified as opportunities for local change within the community in the Listening Events.

Quality assurance, monitoring and reporting

- Undertake quality assurance checks in relation to activities and events delivered through the programme.
- Develop a programme for tracking and monitoring outcomes on an ongoing basis across multiple priority groups
- Undertake outcome monitoring assessments/surveys.
- Maintain records in line with programme requirements and key performance indicator criteria.
- Develop case studies/good news stories from the programme – share these with partners, commissioners and the media to promote the programme and help raise the profile of individuals who could be role models for other local people.
- Undertake baseline and end of programme outcome (wellbeing etc) assessments with participants.

General

- Work with the wider Community Health Catalyst team and hosting organisations to maximise opportunities to meet outcomes and optimise efficiency and effectiveness.
- To work within the framework defined by the MVA/SCVS Equal Opportunities, Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies
- To attend support and supervision sessions with your line manager
- To attend training relevant to the role and agreed with your line manager
- To perform additional duties that fall within the scope of your role as delegated by your line manager or the Chief Executive

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	Generating interest and enlisting community participants through effective engagement and recruitment methods	Community organising experience
	Experience in monitoring and evaluation techniques	Quality assurance auditing experience
	Experience of networking effectively with a range of stakeholders	Experience of promoting a new service and engaging a range of potential cross sector stakeholders
	Coordinating the planning and delivery of events	Experience working within the Voluntary and Community Sector
	Co-development of activities/initiatives	Creating Press Releases and other promotional content
Knowledge	Knowledge of the needs of potential communities we are aiming to recruit to the programme	Knowledge of Population Health Management and Health Inequalities
	Knowledge of funding application processes and criteria	Familiarity with the target geographic area
Skills	Well-developed ICT Skills; able to use a number of software packages	Ability to manipulate data for reporting purposes
	Good fact finding and mapping skills	
	Confident using digital platforms (e.g. social media, e-newsletters) to promote and engage activities	
	Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including report writing, presentation skills and negotiating skills.	
	Able to communicate effectively with people from a wide variety of backgrounds	
	Able to prioritise and manage a complex and varied workload	
Personal	Understanding of equality and diversity	Interest in community development and its value to Medway & Swale
	A genuine interest and commitment to the value of community engagement and empowerment	

	Commitment to quality, responsibility, high work standards and initiative	
	Flexible approach to working hours, and working in a team or individually unsupervised	
	An understanding of confidentiality and data protection	
	Excellent networking and interpersonal skills	
	Self-starter with drive and passion; and an enthusiastic and positive mental attitude	
	Ability to travel independently within the service area	

More about the Community Health Catalyst Programme

The Community Health Catalyst Programme is a project funded by Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership. MVA deliver this programme in partnership with SCVS. It is designed to engage with communities who experience health inequalities and who wish to have their voice heard.

The NHS describes health inequalities as unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. These include how long people are likely to live, the health conditions they may experience and the care that is available to them.

People living in areas of high deprivation, those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and those from inclusion health groups, for example the homeless, are most at risk of experiencing these inequalities. People belonging to inclusion groups tend to have very poor health outcomes, often much worse than the general population and a lower average age of death. This contributes considerably to increasing health inequalities.

The Health and Care Partnership want to listen and to find out from those experiencing these difficulties how they can work together to improve them. Our target priority groups include; people who experience homelessness, people who have or have experienced drug or alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with learning disabilities, people who experience mental health issues, members of the BAME community, ex-offenders, victims of modern slavery, sex workers and the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller community.

The Programme has 3 key phases, and this new role will help accelerate the action/impact phase to empower communities to reduce health inequalities:

- Step 1 – **Engagement and Learning** – ‘Community Activators’ reach out to priority groups through VCS partners to engage with and build relationships with partners, before arranging more specific Listening events.
- Step 2 – **Listening Events** – Led by the ‘Community Engagement and Action Officer’, these will be shaped by the community and held at times and venues which suit them best. This is where people can express their views in a safe, non-judgemental space and suggest ways that things could be improved.

- Step 3 – **Action** – The ‘Community Activator’ and the ‘**Community Accelerator**’ will create and deliver a Local Asset and Signposting Plan to the community. This will provide details of existing support that is already available within the community. In addition it will highlight where opportunities are available to co-create projects to empower the communities to reduce health inequalities at a hyper-local level.
- Step 4 – **Impact** – The ‘Community Accelerator’ will work directly with the priority groups to support the process of co-creation of ideas and the opportunities to apply for Community Chest and other funding; thereby achieving tangible outcomes in relation to health inequalities.