RCPsych Sustainability Scholarships (North West) 2015-16

Job Description

Sustainable mental health care means having the capacity to provide high quality care now and in the future whatever the environmental, economic and social constraints. This requires mental health services to embrace the four principles of sustainable healthcare, to: prioritise prevention; empower individuals and communities; improve value; and consider carbon.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) Sustainability Scholarship Programme 2015-16 is offering part-time, one-year scholarships over the next year. The North West scholarship is open to advanced trainees (ST4 and above) in the North West and Mersey Schools of Psychiatry.

The successful candidate will be supervised and supported by the Oxford-based charity, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH) in conjunction with the RCPsych Sustainability Lead. The North West Scholar will be paired with Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which has committed to implementation of the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health sustainable commissioning guide[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Activities**

The North West Scholar will be one of four Scholars on the national Programme, who will share learning via a monthly telephone meeting convened by CSH, and will collaborate with one another where appropriate.

Using their allocated “special interest” professional development time (1 day per week), Scholars will receive training in sustainable healthcare and will undertake joint projects together with CSH and their paired CCG in support of sustainable commissioning.

Projects will be decided in partnership with the CCG at the start of the programme. Suitable projects could include:

* Development of a Sustainability Assessment Tool for CCG board papers/ policies.
* Design and facilitation of CCG staff development workshops on sustainable commissioning.
* Identification of sustainability criteria to include within service contracts for care providers.
* Detailed review of one or more alternative models of care to inform options appraisal by the CCG – present findings using the CSH case study template.
* Development of a business case for a sustainable service change.
* Facilitation of service user engagement in co-designing services to promote opportunities for self-management and independent living, e.g. via co-production workshops.
* Arrangement of site visits for CCG commissioners to learn from successful initiatives.

Scholars and representatives from their paired CCG will be invited to a CCG planning session at the RCPsych Mental Health Sustainability Summit in London on 27th October 2015 (which will follow on from the national launch of the JCP-MH commissioning guide earlier the same day).

In the final quarter of the one year programme, teams from each of the three participating CCGs, supported by their Scholar, will be invited to a roundtable meeting to share progress and discuss future directions.

In the course of the programme, the Scholars will be expected to contribute regularly to CSH’s national sustainability network in mental health, Psych Susnet, <http://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/psych-susnet>.

**Level of responsibility**

Under guidance from CSH and the RCPsych Sustainability lead, the Scholar will contribute to the selection and design of projects undertaken. Once projects are agreed, the Scholar will have responsibility for managing their own work, supported by monthly meetings (in person or by telephone) with Dr Mortimer of the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare.

**Training**

The post will begin with an induction day, during which the scholar will be briefed on sustainability in the healthcare sector by CSH staff, will meet with other Scholars on the programme, and will be directed to relevant resources. Attendance at the induction may be in person or via Skype.

The programme will also allow for attendance at relevant training events or conferences, supported by a £1000 study/travel budget. At the end of the programme, Scholars will receive a Certificate of Scholarship for their training portfolio.

**Benefits to career progression**

The scholarship will provide a unique opportunity to develop highly transferable skills in clinical leadership, commissioning and quality improvement, while gaining a detailed understanding of environmental, social and economic sustainability of healthcare – a paradigm central to the future of mental health services.

In addition, the role will provide opportunities to demonstrate competences related to a number of intended learning outcomes for Specialist Training in General Psychiatry, in particular:

* Develop appropriate leadership skills (IL-10)
e.g. Demonstrate ability to design and implement programmes for change, including service innovation; Work collaboratively with colleagues from a variety of backgrounds and organisations
* Develop the ability to conduct and complete audit in clinical practice (IL-12)

**The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH)**

CSH, an independent charity, is one of the foremost institutions in the world working on sustainable healthcare in research and practice. Based in Oxford, CSH hosts and manages the current Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Fellow in Sustainability, provides educational supervision to trainees from a range of medical specialties, and coordinates the national Sustainable Healthcare Education Network.

**Application process**

* Applications are invited by CV and covering letter to: frances.mortimer@sustainablehealthcare.org.uk.
* Closing date: Wednesday 14th October 2015, 9pm
* Interviews – by skype – Wednesday 21st October 2015, pm (or another day that week, by arrangement)

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Person Specification

**Essential characteristics**

* Medically qualified
* Advanced trainee (ST4 or above) enrolled on a postgraduate training programme in the North West or Mersey Schools of Psychiatry
* Evidence of ability to organise and manage own work
* Experience of working in mental healthcare in the NHS
* Enthusiasm for improving the environmental sustainability of mental health services
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills
* Evidence of ability to organise and manage own work
* IT skills - proficiency in:
	+ word processing and data spreadsheets
	+ use of email, online discussion fora, blogs

**Desirable characteristics**

* Demonstrates previous commitment to improving quality of care
* Demonstrates previous commitment to environmental sustainability
* Experience of leading or managing behaviour change

Updated 28 September 2015

1. A Commissioning Guide to Future Proof Psychiatry; Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental health. The guide has been developed by Dr. Daniel Maughan, RCPsych Research Fellow in Sustainability 2013-15, and will be launched at a national event in October 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)