RCPsych Sustainability Scholarships 2016-17

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 2016-17 is offering part-time, one-year scholarships in four regions over the next year. Three scholarships are open to advanced trainees (ST4 and above) on psychiatry training programmes nationally (across the UK) while the fourth post is open specifically to advanced trainees in the Thames Valley[[1]](#footnote-1).

Successful candidates will be supervised and supported by the Oxford-based charity, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH) in conjunction with the RCPsych Associate Registrar for Sustainability, Dr. Daniel Maughan.

**Activities**

Using their allocated “special interest” professional development time (1 day per week), the scholars will receive training in sustainable healthcare and will undertake applied projects in sustainable commissioning and/or quality improvement.

In order to demonstrate sustainability principles in real-life settings, each scholar will be embedded within a commissioning or provider organisation (wherever possible, within the same region) which has committed to improving the sustainability of mental health services. Projects will be decided in partnership with the host organisation to align with their strategic priorities.

In the course of the programme, scholars will be supported to prepare conference submissions, educational sessions and journal articles on relevant topics and will be expected to contribute regularly to CSH’s national sustainability network in mental health, [Psych Susnet](http://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/psych-susnet). Within the College, they will contribute to the Sustainability Committee, chaired by Dr. Maughan, and will have opportunity to engage with College processes such as being representative on Policy Committee, engaging with the Centre for Advanced Learning and Conferences, contributing to the Choosing Wisely initiative or assist in developing carbon footprint metrics.

The scholars will share learning via a bi-monthly telephone meeting convened by CSH, and will collaborate with one another where appropriate.

**Support and training**

Appointed scholars will be managed by CSH as an action learning set, receiving both group and individual support and training. Under guidance from CSH and Dr. Maughan, the scholars will contribute to the selection and design of their projects. Once projects are agreed, the scholars will have responsibility for managing their own work, supported by monthly meetings (in person or by telephone) with CSH Medical Director, Dr. Frances Mortimer.

The post will begin with an induction day, during which the scholars will be briefed on sustainability in the healthcare sector and will be directed to relevant resources. Attendance at the induction may be in person or via Skype.

Scholars will also be invited to join the 2015-16 scholars’ final training day, on Wednesday 28th September 2016, where the 2015-16 group will present their scholarship outputs and reflect on what they have learned.

Further group training days will be arranged as required, and may be joint with scholars from other specialties.

The programme will also allow for attendance at relevant training events or conferences, supported by a £1000 study 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 has developed and pioneered the Sustainable Specialties approach to transforming healthcare and currently manages the RCPsych Sustainability Scholars 2015-16 alongside scholars in dentistry and primary care.

**Further information**

To find out more about improving sustainability in mental health, please see:

* RCPsych website: <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/workinpsychiatry/sustainability.aspx>
* CSH website: <http://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/mental-health>
* Psych Susnet: <http://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/psych-susnet>

For more information about the Scholars programme, please contact CSH Medical Director, Dr. Frances Mortimer: frances.mortimer@sustainablehealthcare.org.uk

**Application process**

* Applications are invited by CV and covering letter to: frances.mortimer@sustainablehealthcare.org.uk.
* Closing date: Wednesday 13th July, 9am.
* Interviews – Wednesday 20th July 2016 (tbc) at the Royal College of Psychiatrists (21, Prescot Street, London E1 8BB). Interview by skype may be possible.
* Start date: 1 September 2016

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Person Specification

**Essential characteristics**

* Medically qualified
* Advanced trainee (ST4 or above) enrolled on a postgraduate training programme in psychiatry in the United Kingdom
* Evidence of ability to organise and manage own work
* Experience of working in mental healthcare in the NHS
* Enthusiasm for improving the environmental and social 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 June 2016 to extend the national programme from England to the UK
Updated 4 July to extend closing date to 13 July 2016

1. The Thames Valley Scholarship is funded jointly with Health Education Thames Valley [↑](#footnote-ref-1)