



THIS **SUMMER**
I WANT TO...



JOB DESCRIPTION

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISER

SUMMER 2019



NCS MENTAL HEALTH ADVISER



The **Mental Health Adviser** is an integral part of The Challenge's core staff team, responsible for ensuring the mental health support we provide young people on the NCS programme is high quality and consistent.

You will work closely with the seasonal staff working directly with young people on the NCS programme, **providing advice, sharing resources** and helping them **develop strategies to support young people** who are experiencing poor mental health. The Mental Health Adviser works across multiple programmes in their local region to provide support wherever it's needed. The role is **non-residential**, office-based, but may require regular travel to different programmes or office sites.

This role is primarily focused on **supporting & empowering staff teams**, rather than supporting young people directly, and is suitable for a highly experienced individual with the ability to facilitate and share their skills and knowledge.

Please note that this is a specialised role with limited spaces. We always consider all roles when reviewing your application, **and may contact you with an alternative role if we feel it suits your skills and experience.**

Location	Greater London, Surrey, Bucks & Berks, West Midlands, Manchester, Lancashire & Yorkshire
Role length	3 months (June - September)
Salary	£25,000 - £27,000 pro rata (dependent on location)
Role type	Core, fixed-term, manager (no line-management responsibilities)

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure NCS seasonal staff are **confident and prepared** to support young people with poor mental health by discussing **strategies**, best practice and sharing **pre-prepared resources**
- Help staff to **assess a young person's well-being** and safety on NCS in the event that they experience or disclose poor mental health on the programme
- Support staff to develop **self-help strategies** with young people on the programme to support their wellbeing, either on the phone or by visiting the staff on the programme
- Record actions taken, incidents and outcomes for young people using The Challenge's systems
- Help ensure individual young people and their parents/guardians are given **support beyond the programme** by introducing or referring them to appropriate external organisations that can provide ongoing specialist support

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- Minimum of 12 months direct experience in **supporting young people experiencing poor mental health** (eg anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, suicide ideation, hallucinations, panic attacks)
- Strong working knowledge of **coaching or supporting staff** by developing effective strategies to assist young people experiencing poor mental health
- Experience and/or understanding of working with young people within a **residential setting**
- Strong **written and verbal communication** skills
- Ability to facilitate good relationships with colleagues and capable of working **collaboratively** across multiple departments and stakeholders
- Computer literacy and experience in maintaining clear and consistent case notes/records
- Ability to **stay calm and think quickly** in challenging, fast-paced and demanding environments
- Working **independently** and using own time efficiently while demonstrating positive, workable solutions in a clear and organised manner



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Beneficial:

- Strong working knowledge of **safeguarding policies and mental health services** for young people
- Relevant **course certification**, professional body membership, diploma and/or degree in a relevant field.
- Experience of working as part of a remote team, offering and receiving support by phone/email
- Knowledge of mental health services and how these operate within the local communities, particularly within the youth mental health sector.

WORKING PATTERN

This is a fixed term role, starting in **June and ending in September**. Your exact work pattern will be determined after job offer. The Mental Health Adviser will typically have **5 days on, 2 days off** work pattern (from 9am-6pm), but there may be exceptions to this dependent on need. Please note that weekend working will be required as part of this role.

TRAINING

You are required to attend a **2-day compulsory familiarisation programme** as a condition of us employing you. This training will cover critical elements such as **safeguarding, health and safety, and NCS curriculum**. We provide First Aid training for certain roles. You will also be required to complete a **mandatory online training module** designed by the NCS Trust, details for which will be emailed to you ahead of your role.

HEALTH, WELFARE & DISABILITY SUPPORT

The Challenge is an **equal opportunities provider**. If you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition which may present a barrier to you working on the NCS programme, we will make **reasonable adjustments** to your role and/or the programme wherever possible to make them more accessible for you.

For more information, or to discuss any concerns please contact hwd@the-challenge.org.



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SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY

The Challenge is committed to **safeguarding and protecting the young people** that we work with. As such, all posts are subject to a safer recruitment process, including the **disclosure** of criminal records and **vetting checks**. We ensure that we have a range of policies and procedures in place which promote safeguarding and safer working practice across our programmes. We expect all staff and post holders to share this commitment to safeguarding by ensuring compliance with our policies and practices.

DBS certificates: All candidates are required to return a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate dated on or since 1st January 2018, issued by The Challenge. We no longer accept certificates carried out by other organisations.

The Challenge can assist with, and pay for, your DBS application if you don't currently hold one. We will provide more information on DBS certificates should you be offered a role.

References: We require two satisfactory references to ascertain your suitability to work on the programme. Both of your references must be from someone who knows you in a professional or academic context.

Apply now at: ncs.the-challenge.org/jobs