Versus Arthritis

Job description

Job title: Young People and Families Worker

Reports to: Young People and Families Manager

Department: Young People and Families

Directorate: Services and Influencing

Our vision

A future free from arthritis.

Our mission

We won’t rest until everyone with arthritis has access to the treatments and support they need to live the life they choose with real hope of a cure in the future.

To deliver our mission we invest in world class research, deliver high quality services and campaign on the issues that matter most to people with arthritis. We have developed an ambitious five-year strategy, complimented by our research strategy to help us achieve our vision and mission.

**Our values**

We are United, Compassionate, Inclusive and Brave in all that we do.

**Services and Influencing (S&I) Directorate**

The Services and Influencing Directorate delivers impact and change for people with arthritis through our support services of a helpline, online community and other digital tools, to our community delivery across our four nations so that people can connect and learn the tools to self-management and keep active.  We support people of all ages by delivering peer support, workshops and residentials to young people.  We educate and train health professionals to better understand arthritis and engage with about our research.  We are leaders in influencing governments to promote the importance of arthritis and enable change across our health and social care systems.

Job purpose

As a Young People and Families Worker you will work with colleagues, partners, healthcare professionals, schools, volunteers, families and most importantly young people to co-plan, deliver and evaluate a quality, holistic support offer locally and nationally. Using a community development/youth work approach, you’ll put children and young people at the centres of decisions about their journey and our service offer.

Main duties

* Provide emotional and social support – with the aim of helping young people to take control of their condition, feel better connected and live happier and healthier lives now and in their future adult life.
* Maintain excellent working relationships with healthcare professionals across Paediatric and Adult Rheumatology Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs). Deliver holistic support for young people to manage their condition through attending clinic, managing referrals and co-delivering events.
* Design, deliver and evaluate a holistic programme of engaging face-to-face and virtual support, including residential weekends, self-management workshops digital content and one-to-one support.
* Support volunteers to offer peer support and co-deliver activities – ensuring a quality volunteer experience.
* Monitor, evaluate and report on impact and service delivery in line with funder and Versus Arthritis expectations.
* Support colleagues to put together funding applications.
* Build strong signposting partnerships and referral routes with local and national partners.
* Make sure Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is incorporated into all aspects of our service offer, reaching young people and families currently not in touch with the charity.
* Be a champion for children and empower young people living with arthritis to self-advocate, be better understood by society and listened to.
* To embrace, embed and deliver the organisational values, commitments, and culture throughout all activity.
* To ensure all designated training is completed and all activity is delivered in line with organisational policy and practice.
* To embrace a safeguarding culture where everyone has responsibility for the safeguarding and wellbeing of vulnerable adults and children.
* To undertake any other duties as appropriate to the role and organisational requirements.

Key stakeholders and relationships (internal/external)

* UK Delivery team.
* Young People and Families teams across UK.
* Branch and Group networks.
* Health Development team.
* Innovation and Support Services team.
* Healthcare professionals.
* Voluntary and community sector in area.

End of job description. Person specification on following page.

Versus Arthritis

Person specification

Experience and knowledge

* Experience of working in the third sector and/or public sector, preferably within the fields of youth/community development work and/or health and social care – with a passion for improving the lives of young people.

Skills

* Understanding the importance of self-management and experience of delivering interventions to people living with long term conditions.
* Experience of taking a person-centred approach when providing support.
* Experience of using a community development/youth work approach to co-design and deliver a quality project that is inclusive, inspiring and makes a difference. Engaging colleagues, funders, supporters and partners to make it happen.
* Knowledge and experience of embedding safeguarding and safe working policies and procedures.
* Knowledge of issues surrounding young people and long-term health conditions, and the “Social model of disability”.
* Experience of basic project skills, including supporting evaluation work, writing reports, developing project proposals and managing activity budgets.
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and evidence of relationship management with a wide range of stakeholders.
* Good ICT skills; thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite especially Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint and digital working skills, including experience of using databases and social media.
* Willingness to travel across the UK to attend meetings and events with a willingness to attend occasional weekend events and meetings.

Desirable experience, knowledge and skills

* Knowledge and understanding of arthritis and musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions.
* Experience of using/delivering over virtual communication platforms; Microsoft Teams, Zoom etc.

Criminal Record Check

Versus Arthritis is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. We will undertake safer recruitment practices and relevant checks applicable for the role.

This role DOES require a Criminal Record check.

End of person specification.