

Mental Health Development Worker

Background

Transforming Communities Together (TCT) is the Diocese of Lichfield's joint venture with the Church Urban Fund, part of the Together Network of 19 independent charities across England. We were established in 2014 to build capacity and resilience in communities in Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country. We run a number of programmes including Places of Welcome, Near Neighbours, a Modern Slavery Campaign, and Just Finance's Covid Cash Recovery. We engage with themes such as hate crime, homelessness, food poverty and asylum-seekers. We have developed Dementia Friendly Churches and are now increasing our involvement with disability and mental health. This particular initiative is funded by a grant from Allchurches Trust Hope Beyond and funds from the Diocese of Lichfield.

Mental Health

Mental health has been a common theme in much of TCT's work, featuring strongly in its work on social and financial inclusion, and on community cohesion and integration. It was one of three priorities identified by the Wolverhampton Truth Commission. In 2021, the Diocese of Lichfield is giving TCT responsibility for its church-based mental health work, which had developed over several years through the introduction of the Lifting the Lid course and the training of over 80 people on the two-day Mental Health First Aid course. Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on the mental health of many people, in particular those who were already vulnerable and disadvantaged.

This intervention is to equip church communities to support individuals and their families during periods of mental illness. In particular we recognise that often families, friends and carers struggle to support those close to them experiencing acute episodes of mental ill-health. We believe that the suitably equipped church community can play a significant role during these times.

Programme

The primary vehicle for the delivery of mental health support programme will be churches in the Diocese of Lichfield and across the Black Country. Over twelve months we will build on existing networks and resources, introducing additional support so that the changes achieved are sustainable. Approaches will be made to church leaders and to church members with a known interest in supporting mental health. Where possible, those interested will be encouraged to meet with others in nearby churches, aligning with the diocesan deanery-based Shaping for Mission initiative. These local mutual support groups will be helped to identify and, where appropriate, connect with mental health resources in their area.

The mental health development worker will be familiar with [Lifting the Lid, Happiness Course](#) and the [Guild's Flourish](#) course. They will arrange for the online eight-session [Sanctuary Mental Health](#) (or similar) to be run monthly for participants from across the diocese, especially encouraging the involvement of those who have completed MHFA training

The mental health support worker will have sufficient knowledge of existing schemes so as to know whether and how to recommend these to church groups. Such schemes will include:

- The [Healthy Healing Hubs Project, from The Guild of Health and St Raphael](#)
- [Renew Wellbeing](#)
- [The Changing Room Counselling Service](#)
- [Friendly Places](#)

Where opportunities arise, the mental health support worker will partner with local churches to provide basic mental health awareness training to groups delivering front-line services to people who may be vulnerable. This would include issues such as food poverty, social isolation, homelessness and debt.

We will look for opportunities to participate in research on the contribution which churches make to the mental health of their communities.

Supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish

Job Title:	Mental Health Development Worker
Accountable to:	To be decided
Conditions:	
Hours of work:	21 hours / week – 0.6 FTE - can be flexible, with days to be agreed
Base:	Small St Centre, Walsall or as negotiated
Salary:	£18,000 (£30,000 FTE)
Contract:	12 months (with a possible extension, depending on funding)
Mileage allowance:	Rate (first 10,000 miles in tax year) 45p per mile
Annual leave:	20 days
Pension	5% employer contribution

Principal Duties:

1. Arrange for and recruit to an online mental health training course for church members across the region
2. Support the formation of local mutual support groups of church members championing mental health and aligned with deanery structures.
3. Establish contact with, and understand the provision offered by, schemes supporting churches' engagement with mental health
4. Encourage churches to join existing schemes, as appropriate.
5. Facilitate churches to have awareness of and contact with local mental health facilities.
6. Support churches delivering mental health awareness to groups delivering front-line services.
7. Maintain records of activities, ensuring the collection and recording of appropriate monitoring information including case studies.
8. Participate in TCT team activities.
9. Cooperate with any accompanying research or evaluation programme.
10. The programme delivery should accommodate various degrees of Covid-related restrictions.

Key Relationships

The post-holder will be line-managed by TBA, with professional supervision provided by the Diocesan Mental Health Trainer. They will be in close contact with colleagues leading recommended schemes. They will work closely with TCT team members, cross-promoting activities and resources.

The post holder will need to travel to venues across the Diocese of Lichfield and the Black Country.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding of acute mental ill-health ▪ Good communication skills, both verbal and written. ▪ Computer literacy ▪ Financial literacy, with an ability to work within a budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental Health qualification ▪ A person with vision and able to inspire others ▪ Use of Social Media ▪ Developing promotional materials

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Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A self-starter ▪ Able to work independently and flexibly ▪ Able to prioritise and effectively manage workload. ▪ A good understanding of stigma, diversity and equal opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An understanding of Church of England practices ▪ A knowledge of the Diocese of Lichfield ▪ Understanding of Covid 19 guidance for safe use of community facilities
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with people experiencing mental ill-health • Working or volunteering with a church • Publicising and promoting an idea or activity • Project delivery and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working collaboratively with other partner organisations • Communicating and networking with people from a wide range of backgrounds

As the Mental Health development worker will be required to work closely with churches, it is a genuine occupational requirement that they have a Christian faith.

For more information, visit: www.tctogether.org.uk

<p>To apply: send your completed application form by email to: james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk</p>	
<p>Closing date for applications: 12noon on 11th January 2021</p>	<p>Interview date: Wednesday 20th January 2021 (via Zoom)</p>

This role is being funded by the Diocese of Lichfield and Allchurches Trust.

SUPPORTED BY:

