**Sedgemoor Responsive GP Outreach**

This is an innovative role that has been modelled on successful programmes in the County. The postholder will be part of a growing wider healthcare response for this community and work primarily in partnership with the Somerset Homeless & Rough Sleeper Nursing Service in the care of individuals. They will also work closely with the local Housing Outreach Team and VCSE partners to create a holistic health approach, taking into consideration individual health and care needs (physical and mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, care and social, practical) in addition to housing need.

**Length of Funding** – 10 Months - for Specialist GP provision, support and administration

**Hours** – 1.5 days / three sessions per week (this should be viewed as a guide to the total of hours funded). It is anticipated that this may fluctuate, and the delivery will

be responsive and support other associated homeless health / health inequalities activity.

**Salary –** competitive GP Sessional Rate

**Background / Context**

People living in the most deprived areas of the UK suffer poorer health outcomes, and that health inequity has worsened over the last 10 years (Marmot, 2020).

However, inclusion health groups, for example people experiencing homelessness, vulnerable migrants, and people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, and sex workers suffer the very worst health outcomes.

Of the 327 LSOAs in Somerset, 29 are within the most deprived 20% nationally - Sedgemoor has the highest number of LSOAs in this category (13).

Four LSOAs in Sedgemoor are amongst the most deprived 10% nationally (Bridgwater x 3 and Highbridge x 1).

There is comprehensive evidence that people experiencing homelessness (including those vulnerably housed) have far worse health and social care outcomes than the general population. The average age of death for the homeless population is around 30 years lower than for the general population according to the Office for National Statistics' *Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales: 2019 registrations*.

This was clearly emphasised in the most recently released ONS statistics which showed that the average age of death of people identified as homeless on their death certificate in 2021 was a shocking 45.4 for men and 43.2 for women (ONS, 2022(opens in a new tab)). 35.0% of the recorded deaths were from drug overdose or poisoning and 13.4% were from suicide. Similar overdose and suicide rates were recorded by the ONS in previous years.

Underlying causes of homelessness include structural, societal, and economic factors, and inequalities, such as poverty and deprivation, unaffordable housing, unemployment, exclusion, and discrimination.

People experiencing homelessness often experience severe and multiple disadvantage and unmet health and social care needs that may be contributing factors for becoming homeless as well as consequences of homelessness. Experience of psychological trauma and adverse childhood events are common in people experiencing homelessness, and the prevalence of people who are neuroatypical or have a brain injury is higher than in the general population.

Homelessness and access to appropriate housing is a public health issue.

Homelessness in Sedgemoor (May 2024)

Rough Sleepers in Sedgemoor / Somerset Council (North) are rising steadily and are averaging between 9 and 11 on any one night (individuals who are seen bedded down on a ‘spotlight count’ during the month). These individuals are often not engaged with a GP or any healthcare services whatsoever but have unmet healthcare needs.

Local services are aware of three deaths amongst the rough sleeping cohort since June 2023. All were male, aged between 35 and 55. These individuals were known to have health needs, both mental health and physical.

Somerset Council, with funds from DLUHC RSI grant monies, are creating a medical space based in accommodation provided as ‘first off the street’ in Bridgwater, for those rough sleeping. This space will provide for confidential medical examinations, consultations, drop in for dressing changes, vaccinations and other treatments and therapy, in a safe and appropriate space which is already well known to the rough sleepers as a venue to seek support and advice.  Access will be direct from the street with its own ‘front door’ for further privacy and discretion.  This facility should be completed by early June 2024.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Nursing Service (March 2024)

Since their establishment in March 2021, The Homeless and Rough Sleeper Nursing Service (SFT) have seen 890 separate individuals across Somerset (1176 referrals as some clients referred multiple times) which includes the ongoing presence at a migrant worker accommodation setting in Sedgemoor.

They have recorded contact with 199 individuals in Sedgemoor since March 2022 – which is 22% of total contacts for Somerset. These are clients with either physical or mental health needs, or both.

Currently the Homeless and Rough Sleeper Nursing Service have a caseload of 32 people in Sedgemoor.

The team RIO data for Sedgemoor shows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| March 24 | 81 appointments |
| Feb 24 | 71 appointments |
| Jan 24 | 58 appointments |
| Dec 23 | 22 appointments |
| Nov 23 | 47 appointments |
| Oct 23 | 39 appointments |
| Sept 23 | 44 appointments |
| August 23 | 62 appointments |

This is inclusive of nurse led Laburnum Lodge drop-in clinic appointments (Band 7 specialist nurse on Fridays every other week).

EMIS Clinical Service

The postholder will be added to the new EMIS Clinical Service which has been established to support this work across Somerset. This will improve access to patient records across practice and PCN boundaries.

Somerset Homeless Health Needs Assessment 2023

In 2023 the Somerset Public Health team published their latest [Homeless Health Needs Assessment](http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/files/Homeless%20Health%20Needs%20Assessment%202023.pdf) which assessed the needs of the homeless population and identified a number of recommendations.

NHS England: A national framework for NHS – action on inclusion health

The Sedgemoor Responsive GP Outreach role assists in the fulfilment of Principle 4 of the [National Framework](https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-national-framework-for-nhs-action-on-inclusion-health/)  for the NHS to; Deliver integrated and accessible services for inclusion health and the local system approach to delivering Inclusion Health.

**Outcomes**

Increases in:

* GP registration and patient consultations
* Health Checks
* Diagnoses
* Immunisations (Covid, Flu plus childhood vaccinations if required)
* Screening – e.g., cancer screening, AAA screening, blood borne virus screening including TB, Hep C/Hep B/HIV testing/ Syphilis testing

Evidence of:

* Correct coding on EMIS – using specific ‘Ardens’ Template on EMIS for those who are homeless (or vulnerably housed) – this will support needs assessment and future commissioning.
* Flexibility with Medical Appointments – duration, location, and persistence
* Partnership working – primary services and alternative treatment offers
* Outreach
* Referrals to secondary care
* Preventative Health Promotion activity – including Oral Health
* Completion of treatment – e.g. HCV

**Scope**

This activity is modelled on a successful programme elsewhere in the county that targets people experiencing homelessness – predominantly those who cannot easily access existing (health and care) pathways through universal services – providing these people with enhanced access to general medical services (GMS) and referral to other services. Additional detail can be found at [NHS Parliamentary Awards (Somerset - Health Equity Winners)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/homelessness-health-in-somerset-wins-prestigious-nhs-parliamentary-award/), Dr Laura Devlin’s blog [Reducing health inequalities for inclusion health groups](https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/reducing-health-inequalities-for-inclusion-health-groups/) and [RSPH | Health & Wellbeing Awards 2022 | The Royal Society for Public Health UK](https://www.rsph.org.uk/rsph-health-wellbeing-awards-health-equity-finalist-somerset-county-council-public-health.html) ).

The postholder will be involved in developmental work as part of a project to develop the local health inclusion response and with peers through the Inclusion Health Practitioner’s Forum.

The response will:

* Be intelligence led, dynamic and responsive to local need
* Utilise a personalised care approach to individual support
* Work collaboratively with existing agencies to make the strongest impact and improve access and engagement with mainstream services
* Actively engage with the Homeless / Vulnerably housed cohort
* Work creatively to provide clinical support in alternative ways
* Create relationships with local Holistic providers to provide a rounded response
* Deliver a service from several settings\* across Sedgemoor
* Work with providers and the community on vaccination (included Covid) and wider immunisation concerns and misinformation with the goal of increasing uptake
* As a key part of the review of the local health inclusion response, provide a 6- and 12-month report identifying successes, challenges, barriers and learning and summarising the activity including but not limited to:

o Number of patients seen,

o Number of new appointments including length of initial consultation

o Number of follow up appointments

o Number of Immunisations

o Number of onward referrals

o Use (if any) of the project support / contingency funding)

* Co-produce a learning workshop at the Somerset Homeless Health Practitioner’s Forum and share experiences with relevant local teams.
* Support access to national screenings programmes and treatments
* Support community engagement, considering the need to reduce stigma and communicate information according to each person’s individual preference

\* NICE Guidance NG214 - Outreach services

1.5.13 - Take health and social care services to people experiencing homelessness by providing multidisciplinary outreach care in non-traditional settings, such as on the street, hostels or day centres. [Recommendations | Integrated health and social care for people experiencing homelessness | Guidance | NICE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng214/chapter/recommendations#outreach-services)

**Partnerships/Interdependencies –**

* The role should work closely with:
  + Somerset Homeless & Rough Sleeper Nursing Service
  + Somerset Council Housing Outreach Team
  + Somerset Drugs and Alcohol Service
  + Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead Officer NHS Somerset
  + Public Health
  + Sedgemoor PCNs (Bridgwater Bay and North Sedgemoor)
  + VCSFE partners and Supported Accommodation settings
  + InHip Cardiovascular programme

**Applications close – Sun 7th July**

**Interviews dates expected 10th/11th/12th July TBC**

**For informal discussion please contact:**

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