

Recruitment Pack

**Children and Young People's
Peer Support Coordinator**

March 2025

Thank you for your interest in working with Lancashire Mind

Who are we?

Lancashire Mind is an independent mental health charity, delivering our impactful strategy that has been co-created with the people of Lancashire. We reach over 10,000 people each year.

We're an active member of the national Mind Federation, linking us with over 100 other local Mind organisations across England and Wales, providing excellent opportunities for good practice sharing and partnership working.

Our purpose is to support people in Lancashire to achieve the best mental health and wellbeing possible.

To achieve this, we:

Connect Minds through ongoing engagement and co-creation.

Change Minds by challenging stigma and increasing knowledge around mental health.

Support Minds by being a source of help, where, when, and how people need it.

We value being:

Real

Grounded in lived experience and making sure our work is relevant to Lancashire.

Bold

We're not afraid to demand better for people who need our help.

Caring

Treating people with compassion and respect and being there for people and communities in Lancashire.

Open

Working inclusively to tackle issues and being open to new ideas.

We believe that everyone can achieve good mental health and wellbeing, and that resilience is

the key to sustaining it. With 50% of mental health conditions developing before the age of 14, building resilience from an early age is central to the work we do.

We empower people in Lancashire to value and take care of their mental health. Our work ranges from 1:1 support for people facing multiple and complex barriers, to preventative and influencing work. We work in partnership with others to make mental wellbeing a priority.

We are determined to be an organisation that is representative of the diversity of the whole county and one that challenges the mental health inequalities faced by our communities. We're working to become a truly anti-racist organisation.

Everyone who works for Lancashire Mind is fuelled by a passionate belief that enabling people to achieve mental wellbeing will reduce the number of people who go on to develop a mental health condition, and for those who do, to have a better chance of remaining well.

Join us to connect, change and support minds in Lancashire.

Why work with us?

As well as striving to meet the mental health needs of our local communities, we aim to be a good employer and do what we can to provide a supportive and healthy environment for our employees.



You'll get a friendly welcome from colleagues and clear expectations about your role and how it contributes to achieving Lancashire Mind's goals.

Flexible working

We operate a hybrid working policy. For office-based roles, you can split your time between home and our office in Chorley. For service delivery roles, you'll also spend time working in communities at a range of different venues. Depending on the requirements of the role, we will also consider remote working.

Our full-time hours are 35 hours per week. We are open to requests for flexible working hours, including compressed hours. Everyone is provided with the equipment needed to work from home or in the community.

Leave

Full-time staff have 25 days annual leave, plus bank holidays (pro rata for part-time roles). We close for the days between Christmas and New Year, which are given as additional leave entitlement (pro rata).

We've recently introduced long-service leave. Employees who've worked for Lancashire Mind continuously for 3 years are entitled to an extra day's holiday for each full year of service, up to a maximum of 5 days (pro rata). We've also introduced a buying/selling annual leave scheme.

We offer five paid days of emergency/compassionate leave (pro rata) to help you manage unexpected life events.

Wellbeing benefits

We have a workplace wellbeing scheme provided by a small team of staff champions. Champions organise wellbeing activities and run a regular wellbeing survey, giving staff the chance to input to improving wellbeing in the workplace.

We offer an annual, paid wellbeing half-day to encourage all employees to do something positive for their own wellbeing.

Our Employee Assistance Programme gives you and your immediate family access to a 24/7, 365 confidential helpline and you'll have access to a smartphone app with personalised wellbeing content.

We cover the cost of an annual standard eye test and annual flu vaccination for all staff, regardless of your role.

Financial benefits

We offer the opportunity for staff to save for their retirement by providing a workplace pension scheme, with options for matched contributions up to 6%.

From your start date you'll be eligible for the company sick pay scheme, which increases with each year served up to 6 weeks full pay, 6 weeks half pay after five years of service.

Learning and development

You'll have protected time during regular supervision sessions with your line manager to reflect on and plan the work you do. We provide a wide range of learning opportunities, including shadowing other staff, as well as regular training courses.

Who you'll work with

Our work with children and young people aims to support them to achieve improved confidence, resilience and to develop positive coping strategies to improve and maintain mental wellbeing. We work with children and young people from the age of 5 up to 25, in a variety of settings, and deliver support both face to face and virtually.

Lancashire Mind has been successful in securing funding to establish a peer support programme for children and young people across Lancashire.

This funding, through the NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, forms part of the provision of Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (THRIVE) programme.

The focus of the programme is to provide targeted peer support to CYP in various protected groups who can have a higher prevalence of mental health need and who are less likely to access support.

Peer support covers a range of approaches through which people with similar health experiences support each other to better understand their situations and aid recovery or self-management.

Your role

This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a new project to demonstrate the importance of peer support in improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

As a CYP Peer Support Coordinator, you will be engaging and supporting young people to improve their mental health along with enabling young people to support each other through the form of peer support groups. As such, you will be a confident practitioner with experience of working with young people in community settings.

An important part of your role will be working effectively with other voluntary, community and statutory organisations in your assigned area. This

will enable you to reach young people in various protected groups eg. LGBTQIA+, racialised communities, young carers, neurodiverse young people. You will also refer young people to other services for specialist support.

You will therefore be a confident communicator with the ability to form fruitful relationships with other organisations. You will also have knowledge of Lancashire's Voluntary and Community sector.

You will support young people to access existing peer support groups along with you establishing new groups where there is a gap in your locality. You will also support and train volunteer peer mentors – both adults and young people – to provide the ongoing facilitation of the new groups.

You will have excellent communication skills and a warm, engaging and supportive approach to enable you to build rapport quickly with young people.

Due to this role being community based, you will be confident, autonomous and self-motivated. To maximise engagement with young people and effectively deliver peer support groups, the hours of the role will involve evening and weekend work.

Job description

Job title: CYP Peer Support Coordinator

Hours: 35 hours (Full-Time). Working pattern will be finalised at job offer stage but will involve some evening and weekend delivery.

Contract: Fixed-term until 30 April 2027, with the possibility of extension dependent on funding

Salary: £25,767

Responsible to: CYP Community Lead

Location: Contractual base is Chorley. Delivery will take place across Lancashire

Overview

In this exciting and challenging role, you will be responsible for developing, delivering and evaluating peer support delivery for children and young people up to the age of 19 in Lancashire and up to the age of 25 with additional needs. This project is funded through the NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and forms part of the provision of the Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (THRIVE) programme.

The CYP Peer Support Coordinator will work in their assigned area/s, working with young people to access peer support provision to improve their mental health and wellbeing. You will work with local voluntary and community sector organisations to reach young people and signpost to them for specialist support. You will also carry out outreach within the local community to promote the service to young people in protected groups.

Where there is a gap in provision, you will co-produce and facilitate new peer support groups and train volunteer peer mentors.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Successfully deliver the peer support project for Lancashire Mind in the designated area/s with young people up to the age of 19 and up to the age of 25 with additional support.
- Carry out one to one wellbeing assessments with young people to establish their support needs.
- Carry out services and asset mapping in designated area/s and collaborate with relevant groups and organisations.
- Support young people to attend existing local peer support groups. Identify gaps in provision and work with partners and young people to co-develop new peer support groups.
- Recruit to, promote and facilitate peer support groups.
- Recruit to, promote, design and facilitate training sessions to establish community peer mentors and young peer mentors.
- Refer young people to external services for specialist support e.g. housing, debt, money, addiction services.
- Capture and analyse quantitative and qualitative data, including feedback from young people, to feed into monitoring, service evaluation and impact reports.
- Complete all required assessment, referral and evaluation administration and reporting to a high standard and in a timely and efficient way.
- Work with colleagues to identify opportunities to develop this area of work and support colleagues to write funding bids.
- Work with the wider Children and Young People's team to support with their projects and delivery.
- Understand and implement Lancashire Mind's policies and procedures, including key policies such as safeguarding, lone working and information governance.
- Attend internal and external meetings and training, as and when necessary.

- Undertake flexible working hours in line with the requirements of the role (where possible, working hours don't go above the contracted hours but this is sometimes unavoidable so we operate a time off in lieu (TOIL) policy, this allows any time owed to be taken back at a later date).
- Travel across Lancashire as required and attend face to face team meetings in the office or an alternative location (travel expenses reimbursed, except for usual commute to and from the office).
- Undertake other duties, as and when deemed necessary by a Senior Manager.

Please note: Lancashire Mind follows Safer Recruitment practices and have a commitment to safeguarding people who use our services. Therefore, this role is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check so all applicants must be willing to undergo the check. If invited to interview, we will ask you to provide evidence of your qualifications and right to work in the UK.



Person specification

We only consider inviting to interview people who show that they possess the required experience, skills and personal attributes, as outlined in the table below. **When completing your application form, please use examples from your professional and personal life to illustrate how you fulfil all the criteria to be assessed at application stage only (A).**

Lancashire Mind is committed to fighting racism and other forms of oppression. We want to be a great employer for all our staff, regardless of their background or characteristics. We recognise that not everyone is the same and that different people will require different support to fulfil their potential. We want to ensure Lancashire becomes a place of greater equity and inclusion. One thing we can do to work towards that goal is to ensure that our staff team is representative of the diverse communities across Lancashire, and particularly those communities we know face mental health inequalities. We particularly encourage applications from those communities and from anyone with experience of living with a mental health condition.

	Criteria	Assessed at application (A) or interview (I)
Qualifications and/or work experience	1. Relevant work experience in a similar role, preferably in the voluntary or community sector	A
Knowledge and experience	1. Experience of delivering projects with children/young people in groups, ideally in community settings	A and I
	2. Understanding of peer support and community engagement	A and I
	3. Experience of identifying and engaging with hard to reach communities	I
	4. Knowledge and understanding of mental health and the barriers that young people face to achieving mental wellbeing	A and I
	5. Engaging and working in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, including coproduction of services/activities	A and I
	6. Understanding of safeguarding, professional boundaries, confidentiality and data protection; particularly in relation to children	A
	7. Experience of monitoring and evaluation and demonstrating impact	I
	1. Excellent numeracy, literacy and report writing skills with the ability to maintain accurate records	A
Skills, abilities and competencies	2. Skilled in building and maintaining relationships with a wide range of stakeholders eg, youth settings, schools, families, partner organisations, community groups	A and I

	3. Ability to manage conflicting demands and pressures and work autonomously	A and I
	4. Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people and through a variety of methods	I
	5. Excellent office IT skills (Microsoft Office 365, including Excel) and the ability to learn new software packages, including video conferencing platforms	A
Personal attributes	1. Positive, enthusiastic and friendly attitude	I
	2. Resilient and committed to promoting mental wellbeing for all	A
	3. A demonstrable personal commitment to equal, diversity and inclusion; and challenging discrimination	I

To apply

If you would like to discuss the job before applying, contact Sharon Sutcliffe, CYP Community Lead, sharonsutcliffe@lancashiremind.org.uk

Applications must be submitted using a Lancashire Mind job application form, which can be downloaded from our website www.lancashiremind.org.uk/recruitment or requested by emailing admin@lancashiremind.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 9am on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Email your completed application form to admin@lancashiremind.org.uk. Please do not convert your form to a PDF, otherwise it will not be possible for us to remove the identifying information before sending your application to the recruitment panel.

Late applications will not be accepted. Those who do not adequately demonstrate how they fulfil the criteria required at application stage, will not be considered for shortlisting.

Interviews for this post are scheduled to take place on Thursday 1st May so please keep this date free as alternatives can't be offered. Successful candidates will be notified no later than 24th April. Interviews will be held in-person at the Lancashire Mind offices in Chorley.

If you have not heard from us by two weeks after the deadline, please assume that you have not been shortlisted on this occasion. The organisation regrets that it cannot provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants at the shortlisting stage.

If you have any questions about the application process or require support with the process, please contact our Operations Team on 01257 231660.

What to expect at interview

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview, which will usually take place at the Lancashire Mind office in Chorley. Occasionally, they are held at other venues in Lancashire or virtually via Microsoft Teams. Details of the venue and times will be included within the email invite. You can expect the following if you are attending an interview:

- All interviews include a set of questions asked by a panel of three people.
- Some interviews include a presentation, which will need to be prepared in advance of the interview. Where a presentation is required, we provide a minimum of 5 days' notice to allow time for preparation. We recommend applicants pencil time into their diary for preparing a presentation, in the event they are shortlisted.
- We allow 30 minutes for candidates to read the panel questions and make notes, which can be referred to during the interview.
- The panel interview will usually consist of between 6 and 8 questions and takes around 30 to 45 minutes.
- We aim to support people to feel as comfortable as possible at interview and are happy for you to ask for clarification on any of the questions asked by the panel, as well as taking a few moments to think about a question before answering.
- Once the panel have asked their questions, candidates can ask questions about the job and/or Lancashire Mind.
- We can adapt the interview process for individuals where required. There is space on the job application form to request reasonable adjustments.

Lancashire Mind

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