



Title	Community Health Project Officer
Status	One-year initial fixed term contract - 35 hours
Location	Dublin 10
Reporting to	Health & Inclusion Programmes Manager
Salary	On company's officer level 2 scale starting point circa €38,000 d.o.e.
Note:	This post has the option to be worked either at 28 hours (pro rata) or 35 hours over Monday - Friday

Introduction

Evidence has consistently shown that people who experience economic deprivation and its associated marginalisation have relatively high mortality rates, higher levels of ill-health and fewer resources to adopt healthier lifestyles when compared to better off sections of society. The area of Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard is designated as 'disadvantaged' with the majority of small areas having a HP deprivation index that categorises them as either 'disadvantaged' or very disadvantaged. In 2020, a health needs assessment was completed with the participation of Travellers living in the Ballyfermot area. Key findings relating to the health of the Traveller Community locally included; poorer self-rated health than the general population, high levels of presentation at A&E for under 18s, high levels of mental health issues, respiratory conditions and serious concerns regarding the health implications of living conditions.

The post holder, while employed by LP, will be required to work collaboratively with BTAP on dedicated programmes to promote Traveller health as well as a range of programmes to engage the wider community. The post holder will also work in collaboration with other LP and HSE supported programmes such as Healthy Food Made Easy, Social Prescribing and Heads Up which is a HSE funded programme aimed at supporting mental health and wellbeing in a community setting.

Role Description

Role Purpose – the Community Health Project Officer is required to work as part of a staff team implementing objectives and actions set out in the Company's Annual Programme of Work.

Duties of the Role - The role of the Community Health Project Officer is to provide local people with information, signposting and activities to support improvements in health and wellbeing. The role will entail performing the following duties:

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- Work to establish relationships of trust with community members with a particular focus on those who are less likely to engage with mainstream health promotion services.
- To develop, plan and implement health promotion programmes for the general community (e.g. Living Well Programme for adults with chronic conditions)
- To develop, plan and implement health promotion programmes that are culturally appropriate for the Traveller community
- Continue the development and promotion of activities that are inclusive of the Traveller Community (e.g. Traveller Women's Health Group)
- To recruit participants for health promotion programmes.
- Work on a 1:1 and group facilitation basis with community groups and individuals with the aim of improving health and wellbeing.
- To access and provide resource material, handbooks and certificates and any other necessary equipment
- Actively seek out and implement joint programme activities with primary health care teams to share information and develop referral pathways between local community groups and primary health care services.
- Work collaboratively with BTAP Traveller Primary Health Care team in support of the objectives as set out by the HSE.
- Work in partnership with stakeholders to identify and promote opportunities for individuals to take part in activities that support health and wellbeing such as volunteering, new community group activities and services, and educational opportunities.
- Convene and act as secretariat to the D10 Health & Wellbeing Network
- Ensure the highest standards of confidentiality and integrity are maintained in the conduct of the work
- Maintain caseload records and build a case-study portfolio and general statistical information.
- Attend and participate in regular supervision & planning sessions with BTAP and LP
- Participate in relevant team meetings and opportunities for learning and development across both organisations.
- Adhere to Professional Standards and Code of Ethics in the Company
- To work towards and reach set objectives and targets
- Generate progression reports on an agreed basis
- Collate, monitor and present statistical information on participant and programme outcomes and ensure all programme participants are tracked on the company's CRM system
- Undertake other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned

Person Specification

Candidates are encouraged to apply for this role with the requirement that they can demonstrate both the relevance of their skills and experience. It is likely that the person appointed will demonstrate a genuine commitment to LP's ethos and vision and ideally have the skills and attributes as detailed below. Applications are particularly sought and welcomed from but not limited to members of the Traveller community and other minority communities.

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Qualifications

- The Community Health Project Officer will be able to demonstrate practical experience of health issues affecting individuals and communities. A relevant further or higher education qualification and at least 1 years' experience in a similar type role is a minimum requirement. In exceptional circumstances, a candidate may be appointed who does not hold a third level qualification but who possesses a very considerable amount of job-related experience

Knowledge & Expertise

The Community Health Project Officer should be able to demonstrate experience and expertise in the following areas:

- Minimum of 1 years' experience working in a relevant professional field.
- Knowledge of facilitation and group work
- Demonstrated understanding of relevant health related policies and understanding of health promotion strategies
- Must have experience of working directly with adults in a community setting or related area
- Knowledge of health promotion programmes, activities, trends and opportunities
- Knowledge of education and training programme design
- Experience in making effective referrals
- Experience in working with vulnerable client groups
- A record of planning, achievement and implementation
- Knowledge of relevant Traveller policies including Traveller Health policies
- Experience of working with Traveller community or other community that experience racism
- Must have knowledge and understanding of the factors impacting on disadvantaged communities
- Must demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social inclusion and health promotion
- Must have experience of establishing contact and developing relationships with key stake holders including statutory bodies, and other sector stakeholders

Skills & Competencies

The Community Health Project Officer should be:

- Empathetic to the needs of those most distanced from opportunity, particularly those who are members of the Traveller Community
- Understanding of the impact of racism and discrimination
- The ability to work sensitively and in an empowering way in a community setting
- Flexible, creative with the ability to adapt to a changing and challenging environment
- Able to work in a self-directed manner
- Able to conduct him or herself in a way that commands confidence and respect.
- Fair, impartial and open to new ideas and information
- In possession of excellent written (both academic and report/proposal writing), oral communication, facilitation and presentation skills
- Computer literate in dealing with standard MS word and data processing, spreadsheet and communication packages

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Character & Personal Qualities

- Be passionate about learning, creative and forward thinking
- Able to work in a self-directed dynamic manner, and to develop good working relationships with all stakeholders
- Appreciative of the main social, economic and environmental issues currently affecting the sector
- Fair, impartial and open to new ideas and information

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