

Background Information for the role of Development Officer for Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Chaplaincy



We currently have 10 volunteer chaplains linked to 10 GP Practices in Scunthorpe, Brigg, Lincoln, Boston, Bourne and Stamford. Volunteers are from several Christian denominations, although the project, which began with an idea in 2012, is managed by the Lincolnshire Methodist District.

Lincolnshire Methodist District, the employer, stretches from Scunthorpe and Grimsby in the north to Boston and Holbeach in the south.

Our vision is for chaplaincy to be a service integrated into primary healthcare throughout Greater Lincolnshire offering a professional listening and guidance service dedicated to holistic care and improving wellbeing. Chaplains aim to be a compassionate presence to those in need, improving holistic wellbeing and bringing hope.

Chaplains hold individual appointments within GP Practices usually offering up to 3 or 4 appointments in one session per week. They are available for both patients and staff. The service recognises that some patients need more time to talk and be listened to than may be possible in a restricted appointment with a GP. In this way emotional, psychological and spiritual needs may be addressed. This is not a counselling service nor a replacement for more formal medical treatments.

Patients do not need to have a faith nor do they need to talk about faith matters during an appointment although, for those who ask for it and when appropriate, spiritual matters may be discussed and the patient may ask for prayer.

The project is managed by an Executive team chaired by Sally-Ann Robinson which includes a part-time, paid, Chaplaincy Manager who manages and supervises the chaplains. Administration of the work is carried out on a part time basis from an office in Lincoln.

As with any such work volunteers come and go and in order to not only sustain but develop the service we have realised that we need a Development Officer who is dedicated to making and consolidating links with new and existing GP Practices and also to look for new opportunities in the community. Networking with other services, other charities working with the NHS and groups such as the Primary Care Networks will be crucial. In addition raising awareness and gaining support from the church community is important too.

We intend to run a training course early in 2026 for new chaplains and so one of the first tasks will be for the Development Office to work on finding suitable placements in GP practices for the newly trained chaplains.

It is anticipated that the appointed person may work from home with travel across the county as necessary.

The post is offered on a fixed term contract for one year initially.

If you would like to discuss the post prior to interview then please do not hesitate to make contact by phoning 01522 370126 or emailing healthchaplaincy@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk