

JOB DESCRIPTION – VRU Specialist in Public Health

Location: Victory House, Balliol Business Park or any accommodation as directed by the PCC

Responsible to: Director of the VRU

Responsible for: 2 x VRU Co-ordinators, 1 x VRU Partnership Analyst

Car User Status: Casual

Salary: Grade K £45,903-£50,250

Hours of Work: Mon – Fri office hours (flexibility required for some evening work as and when required and some travel may require over-night trips).

Purpose:

To develop and deliver a multi-sector violence reduction strategy across the Northumbria Police Force area. The post being advertised is specifically to provide specialist Public Health advice and support to the Director of the VRU.

Role summary

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner is one of eighteen PCCs to have secured funding from the Home Office to develop a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

VRUs are a multi-agency approach designed to bring together police, local government, health agencies, education representatives and other community representatives to tackle violent crime, and importantly, its underlying causes and deliver a Response Strategy including capacity building, tactical changes and interventions

The VRU team, within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, will develop and deliver a Response Strategy working with communities and partners to deliver a multi-agency public health approach to reducing serious violence. Our approach will focus on early intervention; youth diversion; drugs, alcohol, homelessness; mental health; domestic abuse and effective criminal justice.

Key roles and responsibilities of this post:

1. To act as the single point of contact for Public Health and NHS leads across Northumbria
2. Work with partners to identify gaps in commissioning services and support in relation to substance misuse
3. Support local interventions and work with partners to explore additional measures to support violence reduction such as Community Alcohol Partnerships, targeted drug awareness campaigns, connections with GP surgeries etc.
4. Oversee the development of a Northumbria wide Alcohol and Substance Misuse Strategy.
5. Provide specialist knowledge, advice and guidance to key stakeholders to facilitate the public health approach to prevent violence
6. Engage and liaise with key stakeholders including local Public Health teams, Health Trusts, local authorities and commissioners to refine access to data and information and develop needs led interventions aligned to the VRU Response Strategy

7. Build partnerships and collaborative relationships with local and national stakeholders and organisations in relation to effective public health approaches to reducing violence
8. Develop and maintain a database of useful contacts working within the field of public health.
9. Assist in the establishment and promotion of a knowledge base of key health and public health evidence and practice that informs effective and efficient approaches to reducing violence and wider vulnerability
10. Contribute to the formulation of operational plans to support health promotion and public health development in relation to serious violence.
11. Contribute to the provision of advice, training and support to enable others to actively engage with communities to promote health and well being
12. Oversee the progression of VRU Insight activity ensuring that health data is clearly aligned and utilised in the development and implementation of area-based interventions, this includes:
 - Support the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information and comparative datasets on violence, health and wellbeing.
 - Identify, facilitate and promote access to tools and methods to collect, analyse and use information.
 - Promote evidence informed practice in the development, advocacy, implementation and evaluation of interventions.
13. Provide direct staff supervision to 2 x VRU Co-ordinators and 1 x VRU Partnership Analyst, taking into account staff welfare and ensuring effective performance management

Required knowledge, skills and abilities

Essential criteria:

- Excellent understanding of the national and local landscape in relation to Public Health
- Demonstrable ability to foster relationships with key partners in Health, Criminal Justice, Policing, Education and other services across Northumbria;
- Have the ability to provide cross-sector responses and early interventions to support the reduction of serious violence.
- Must have comprehensive project and programme management experience including developing and commissioning services and overseeing the delivery of those services;
- Must hold a degree in an associated field or have substantial relevant experience of working within a multi-agency public sector environment;
- Must have the ability to manage multiple tasks and have proven experience of delivering within timescales;
- Must have the ability to handle complex information and be able to analyse and present it in a simple fashion;
- Must have experience of managing work with people and agencies across multiple sites;
- Must have excellent communication/interpersonal and collaboration skills and an ability to communicate, build relationships, influence and negotiate with prospective providers, stakeholders and partners;
- Must have experience of working in a pressured environment to tight timelines;
- Should have a thorough understanding of the public health approach and how interventions can be delivered at population level, targeting resources effectively through increased understanding of the population.
- The post-holder may be required to undertake such other responsibilities as are reasonably commensurate with the grade of the post.
- This is a politically restricted post.

Desirable criteria:

- Experience of engaging directly with the partnership networks across Northumbria
- Ability and confidence to advise senior figures both within and outside the organisation
- Comfortable presenting to a wide range of audiences
- At least four years relevant experience in a related field