

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Lead x 2 South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	VCSE Strategic Lead (Adult mental health) and VCSE Strategic Lead (Children and young people's mental health)
Band:	£260 per day (equivalent to a salary of £67,600 per annum (pro rata)) Total funding available £20,790 (£17,160 to cover salary payment +£3630 for employing VCSE overhead cost)
Function:	Strategy and Transformation Directorate
Responsible to:	Head of Transformation
Accountable to:	Head of Transformation
Hours:	0.2 FTE (1day per week) + 14 days a year for training & development

Overall purpose of the role:

To support South East London NHS Trusts to embed a **consistent and holistic VCSE-lens** across Trust activities, ensuring that local VCSE and community insights, expertise and partnerships shape service development, design and delivery.

South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) in partnership with SEL Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Strategic Alliance and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) are seeking to recruit **two local VCSE leaders** to be embedded within SLaM as their VCSE Strategic Leads.

The two roles will each have a specific focus: with a VCSE Strategic Lead (Adult mental health) and a VCSE Strategic Lead (Children and young people's mental health). The successful candidates must have experience in one of these areas of focus.

These two roles will support the Trust to develop a strategic approach to working in collaboration with the VCSE sector and the necessary plans to implement the new approach. This will seek to ensure that a **consistent VCSE lens** is applied across service development, design, and transformation. They will embed the knowledge, expertise, and connections of the VCSE sector into how the Trust strategically plans and delivers care.

By championing **VCSE and community-led approaches**, the roles will help the Trust to shape services that are more inclusive, responsive, and rooted in the realities of local communities – particularly those who experience the greatest barriers to accessing mental healthcare. In particular, these roles will need to ensure that the Patient Carer Race Equality Framework (PCREF) is embedded in the new strategic approach.



The roles will also ensure that VCSE strategic approaches directly support the objectives of the Trust's transformation programmes and delivery of NHS Long Term Plan commitments for mental health, particularly expanding community care access.

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead the development of a new **strategic approach to working with the VCSE sector**, that links into operational delivery in local borough services.
- Work with Trust leadership to create a **high-level delivery plan** for the agreed new strategic approach, ensuring alignment with both corporate and Borough level resources and links to local community infrastructure.
- Work with Trust leadership to **implement governance to support the new strategic approach**, that considers and aligns with current Borough based structures and that can be taken forward by Trust staff.
- Work collaboratively with operational leadership and VCSE facing roles (e.g. Community Partnerships Officers) to ensure that the new strategic VCSE approach **aligns with operational community partnership delivery**.
- Work with the Trust leadership to develop **evaluation frameworks and success metrics** for VCSE partnership approaches, as well as processes to ensure sustainability of the new strategic approach.
- Provide **VCSE sector insight and leadership** into the work of the Trust, ensuring VCSE insight shapes and informs decision-making processes, and identify practical steps to embedding this into business as usual.
- Support the Trust to **better understand and navigate** local VCSE sector, identifying any barriers to Trust-VCSE sector partnership working and designing solutions where required.
- Provide sector expertise and guidance to enable the Trust to build positive relationships and strengthen its partnership with local VCSE organisations, with a focus on smaller '**By and For**' VCSEs that the Trust is not currently collaborating with.
- Support the Trust to develop holistic, VCSE-led approaches which meet the diverse needs of local communities, to be integrated consistently across service design, delivery, and transformation, enhancing and diversifying the Trust's efforts to **tackle health inequalities**.

Who We are Looking For:

We are seeking two leaders from the **local VCSE sector** with experience in **cross-sector collaboration, strategic influencing, and community leadership**, especially with under-represented groups. They should have a strong understanding of the **local VCSE landscape** and a passion for amplifying community voices in healthcare.

The two successful candidates will need to be **solutions focused** and enjoy the **challenge of putting strategies into practice**. We are looking for people to work collaboratively with us to make improvements that will benefit the partnerships between the Trust and the local VCSE sector and ultimately our service users and carers.

It is essential that the successful candidates have significant experience in either adult mental health or children and young people's mental health and be confident in navigating a large, complex and multi-layered organisation.

**** Please state whether you are applying for the adult mental health role or the children and young people's mental health role when you submit your application****

Person Specification – VCSE Strategic Lead

		Essential/ desirable
Experience & knowledge	Currently working within a South East London-based VCSE organisation which is embedded in local communities (must be in Lambeth, Lewisham or Southwark)	E
	Deep working understanding of the role and value of the VCSE sector in shaping mental health and care services	E
	Strong connections within local VCSEs and relevant local VCSE networks and forums	E
	Understanding of health inequalities within South East London and the role of community-led approaches in addressing them	E
	In depth understanding of the mental health needs of local populations in Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham, including the social determinants of mental health and the barriers faced by marginalised communities in accessing support	E
	Demonstrated experience of cross-sector collaboration and successfully influencing change outside of organisational boundaries, ideally with the healthcare system	E
	Demonstrable experience in adult mental health or children and young people's mental health	E
	Experience of generating shifts in organisational culture, from strategic design through to implementation of resulting plans	E
Skills & abilities	Ability to navigate complex systems, influence decision-making, and advocate for community-led approaches within NHS structures	E
	Ability to bring authentic community and VCSE sector insights into system-level discussions	E
	Skilled in developing and sustaining partnerships, particularly with smaller, grassroots 'By and For' VCSEs that may face barriers to engagement with larger systems and able to provide guidance on how organisations can reflect this	E
	Strong communication and facilitation skills, with the ability to bridge the gap between VCSE organisations and NHS partners	E
	Ability to support organisational or system-level change to embed VCSE insights into service design and delivery	E
	Ability to form positive professional relationships with colleagues from diverse sectors	E

This role requires a passionate advocate for community-driven change who can bring a **consistent, holistic VCSE lens** to mental health service development, helping the Trust deliver more inclusive and responsive care.