Community Health Practitioner
Role Description

Responsible to: The Senior Tutor

Purpose of the Role:
The St Catharine’s College Health and Wellbeing team is currently made up of the Community Health Practitioner, the Head of Wellbeing and the College Chaplain. The Community Health Practitioner is a key member of this experienced team, responsible for delivering a holistic and proactive approach to fostering a healthy college community, focusing on both the physical and mental health of students, staff and Fellows.

The Community Health Practitioner provides confidential medical advice on all aspects of physical and mental health related issues, working within a framework of established medical professional and college policies, procedures and guidelines. This role is key to enhancing the outstanding wellbeing and health provision at St Catharines, which is at the forefront of collegiate wellbeing initiatives within the University.

Primary Responsibilities:

1. Work closely within the College Health and Wellbeing Team to create and drive a strategy for developing and promoting physical, mental and emotional wellbeing in the College, including a particular focus on health-related life skills which will assist students in coping with the demands of study at a world-leading University and beyond.

2. Assume responsibility for establishing and implementing long term preventative measures to promote wellbeing. Take a proactive approach to the health of the College community, including individual health education and college wide initiatives such as healthy diet, stress management, healthy sleep and relaxation.

3. Working with the Head of Wellbeing to plan and budget for training and activities, to be carried out during and outside of Full Term time, for staff and students, on a range of health education programmes to foster a healthier community. Aim to become a model of best practice in the field of supporting and caring for the whole community, including the dissemination of information on physical and mental health as well as other aspects of health and physical self-care.

4. Be responsible for developing and advising policy on health-related matters in college, when required, and in collaboration with the College Health and Wellbeing Team and other Departments within the College.

5. Assume responsibility for oversight of areas of risk and planning in matters relating to student and staff physical and mental health throughout the year.

6. Be an expert, visible presence and a first point of contact for colleagues, throughout the year, in discussions of evolving physical and mental health priorities and strategic responses to changing circumstances.
7. Support, liaise with and advise the Senior Tutor, the College Health and Wellbeing Team, Tutors, Directors of Studies, Porters, JCR and MCR welfare officers and the College’s retained counsellors and mental health advisor.

8. Assist in providing a first-line advisory health service for students, staff and Fellows, during and outside of Full Term time.

9. Attend relevant College meetings such as Undergraduate and Postgraduate Tutors’ meetings etc, proactively advising on such matters to support the physical and mental health of students.

10. When required, attend meetings with the University Counselling and Occupational Health Services and with the Cambridge College Nurses Association and relevant training sessions.

11. When required, liaise with the College Health and Wellbeing Team to assist in the registration of all undergraduate students with a Cambridge GP and devise and administer student health questionnaires.

12. When required, assist the College Health and Wellbeing Team in advising the Admissions Department and Student Services on the medical aspects of the care of disabled students.

13. When required, liaise with GPs, College Nurses across the University, the University Counselling Service, the Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre and other healthcare professionals.

14. When required, may be asked to work out of hours with the College Duty Tutor to assist with urgent student incidents.

15. Undertake the required CPD activity in order to remain on the register of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The above is not an exhaustive list of duties. This job description may be subject to change, following consultation between the Senior Tutor and the post holder. The post holder may be asked to take on different tasks as required, and all employees are expected to work collaboratively to support the overall work of the College.
Person Specification: Essential Experience and Skills

- Current Registered General Nurse (RGN)
- Current member of the NMC
- A minimum of 5 years’ post-registration experience
- A postgraduate diploma in mental health, or other qualification in mental health would be desirable, though not essential
- Counselling or experience working in mental health

- Ability to be proactive and work in innovative and creative ways to engage communities in physical and mental health wellbeing initiatives
- Experience of effectively advising and assisting people with a range of physical and psychological issues and emergencies.
- Experience of working independently with confidence and making appropriate decisions, with limited supervision
- Ability to be proactive and innovative in developing and improving welfare services

- Experience of working with other agencies/multi-professional teams and building strong working relationships to achieve the most effective outcome
- Knowledge of local referral pathways
- Familiarity with higher education establishments is desirable, though not essential

- Evidence of excellent verbal, written and listening skills
- Ability to work calmly and under pressure
- A willingness to work flexibly within the role and, occasionally, out of hours
- Computer literate with experience of Word, Outlook, Excel, Zoom and Teams