

## **Connector Job Description**

### **Job Purpose**

The Connect Me Project aims to create networks and connections between charities, services, and community groups for a more interconnected and relational community sector. It also aims to remove barriers to access that will allow more people to take part in more activity that supports wellbeing and social connections.

At the core of the service is a network of Connectors. Working together and embedding themselves into harder to reach parts of our society, they will support and develop activity and connections that help to build resilient, engaged, and interwoven communities.

### **Key Features**

1. They will be employed by charities, community organisations and other service providers and commissioned by the Connect Me Project Team to play the role of Community Connector for a fixed number of hours per month, for a fixed period and will report to the Board.
2. Their primary work is to engage with key communities, working with the natural connectors and leaders in those communities, and where required, to support and develop activity that builds strong social relationships and connections. Where helpful, this work can be further funded, supported, and commissioned by the Connect Me grant scheme.
3. They will work together with other Community Connectors – coordinating their activity as a network to ensure maximum reach, effectiveness, and inclusivity.
4. They will also be champions for change – as part of an action-learning community they will pioneer new ways of working to reach those most at need or least connected.

### **Key Responsibilities**

1. To learn how to use the new social prescribing platform and aim to prescribe people into activities suited to meet their needs.
2. To embed themselves in key communities, develop networks and find existing places and hubs of connection – mapping key community assets and discovering areas of need.
3. To work with existing community groups and activities to increase participation, access, and collaboration.
4. To propose new community building activities and initiatives to the Connect Me Board for commissioning. Opportunity to apply for collaborative Connect Me Grants of up to £5,000 for projects which increase opportunities for Islanders to participate in

activities that promote a sense of connection, prevent loneliness and enhance both physical health and overall well-being.

5. To enable and empower existing and natural connectors and community leaders to have greater impact and reach.
6. To work with citizens to connect them with services and activities that can most positively impact them – providing them with the support they need to continue participating in those activities over time.
7. To work with the whole network of Community Connectors to enhance and develop their skills as part of an ‘action-learning set’ - becoming familiar with the theory and practice of community building from a variety of approaches.
8. To work with the other Community Connectors, community groups, services providers, and charities to develop a shared data and research base.
9. To build a volunteer base around their work – working with existing and newly engaged citizens and passing on skills and knowledge in community building.
10. To be instigators for systemic change - innovating and pioneering alternative methods of building and sustaining strong and engaged communities.
11. To attend a monthly (2 hour) facilitated action-learning/ training session with other Community Connectors. Training covers a number of topics and previous sessions have covered
  - Understanding your community better
  - Diversity and Inclusion
  - How to spark change and innovation
  - How to deliver a successful pitch for grants
  - Care and Connection
  - Celebrating our communities, skill sharing and making connections
  - Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid
  - Setting Good Boundaries
  - Social Welfare Awareness
  - The Hitchhikers Guide to implementing Sustainable Social Prescribing
  - Accessing Grants and Funding; and Expansion Support
  - Community Organisation and Leadership
  - How to influence positive change
12. To attend a monthly (90 minutes) feedback session with an expert in an element of community development with other Community Connectors.
13. To provide feedback that will determine the needs, aspirations, assets and barriers within the communities each Community Connector serves, and to build a picture of the most needed interventions for the development of that community.

14. To prepare and deliver pitches to the Community Compass Board for new projects.

### **Reporting and Performance Measures**

1. They will report on and track their activity and development and help to measure the impact and value added to the communities they are working with.
2. They will create assets maps of key communities, mapping the strengths and existing activities, hubs and connectors. They will also map areas where further development and support is needed.
3. They will play an active role in the Community Connectors 'action-learning set', take part in the community of interest and endeavour to attend all related meetings, training sessions and events.
4. Community Connectors will keep their employing organisations apprised of their activity and ensure maximal integration of new and existing activity, working across silos and networking effectively.
5. Community Connectors will actively update a shared database in ways that are compliant with data protection regulation.

### **Key Attributes**

1. Excellent networker and natural connector, driven by a desire for collaboration, cooperation and integration between different organisations and different sectors of the community; with the skills and drive to work across silos and sectors.
2. High degree of empathy, emotional intelligence, and a strongly adaptive relational style – able to relate effectively to people from all walks of life.
3. Strong communicator who is able to explain complex ideas in simple and engaging ways to people from a very wide variety of backgrounds, ages and nationalities.
4. Well organised, with the ability to keep detailed records of meetings, interactions, decisions and contacts.
5. Exercises accurate judgements in managing complex situations that require analysis, interpretation and comparison of a range of options.
6. Excellent self-management and track record of being highly action orientated, self-motivated and able to stay focussed on tasks and outcomes even when working on their own.
7. Intrinsically motivated by a desire to see positive changes in the lives of individuals and positive systemic change across the whole of Jersey society.
8. Strong understanding of the complex social dynamics of the island community with its unique blend of cultures, social groupings and socio-economic backgrounds.

9. Experience and strong track record of working with people with complex needs and vulnerabilities with awareness of safeguarding and protection policies and procedures.
10. Understanding of issues related to health inequalities and other kinds of inequalities and a track record of promoting inclusion and access for underserved and underprivileged communities.
11. Strong team player who facilitates the learning and development of others, recognises where there is a need for improvement and gives accurate and honest feedback in empathetic ways.