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Overview

Do you want to be part of our team leading innovation and improvement in health and care?

Health and care systems around the world are facing an unprecedented challenge. Even before the emergence of COVID-19, increasing demand on health and care services required us to rethink how we help people to stay healthy and support them to manage health conditions.

The South West has been stepping up to that challenge – and with an ageing population spread over three large counties, with considerable variation in life expectancy, it’s a significant one. Nearly a quarter of people living across Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are aged 65 and over and, despite numerous thriving communities, the region includes some of the most deprived areas in the country.

What’s clear is that tackling this challenge will require us to innovate, improve and evolve how we deliver health and care services. That’s where we come in. Established by NHS England in 2013 as one of fifteen Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs), we help health and care partners across the South West to develop and spread innovative practice.

Our existing programme portfolio is broad. Current commissions include programmes to spread proven innovation in partnership with NHS England, improve patient safety through our commission with NHS Improvement, and to support the uptake of innovation from the life science sector in the health and care system with the Office for Life Sciences.

As Partnerships Manager, you will join our partnerships business function with a focus on building sustainable work and relationships with our member organisations, and current and future stakeholders.

The core responsibilities of the Partnerships Manager focus on two key areas of work:

- **Delivering our engagement strategy and plans** for our member organisations, building effective partnerships with our members and ensuring they receive value from their membership of the SW AHSN.

- **Managing the delivery of support to members and partners** to help them to **build their capability** and **spread innovative practice**.

We are looking for someone with a track record of building relationships through the practical delivery of support to health and care organisations, and who can help us to maximise the impact of our work with our members and partners.
Purpose of the role

The Partnerships Manager has a vital role in our partnerships business function, both supporting our teams to maximise the impact of their work with our members and partners, and supporting long-term sustainability.

You will work closely with the Senior Partnerships Manager and colleagues in the communications and engagement business function.

You will be a vital link to our membership, managing the delivery of the commitments we make in our partnerships and new commissions through the running of projects in quality improvement and spread and change methodologies.

You will work with our communications and engagement, programmes, and evaluation and learning business functions to deliver our engagement strategy and plans for our member organisations.

Overall you will ensure that we are delivery focused, proactive and reliable in our work with our members, and current and future stakeholders.

Key success factors

- Building and maintaining collaborations and partnerships for mutual benefit.
- The ability to design and co-ordinate the delivery of training programmes and events focused on capability development.
- An accomplished communicator with a drive to support our members and stakeholders.
- A solutions-focused completer-finisher with a can-do attitude.
- Comfortable with change and uncertainty in a fast-paced setting.

Responsibilities

- Working with the Chief Executive, Director of Partnerships, Senior Partnerships Manager and colleagues in the communications and engagement business function to design our member engagement strategy and plans.
- Supporting delivery of membership engagement plans in partnership with colleagues in our communications and engagement, programmes, and evaluation and learning business functions.
- Managing the development and delivery of capability development programmes to meet member and partner needs, with a focus on quality improvement (QI) and spread, including:
  - Managing training and workshop sessions
  - Establishing strong relationships with stakeholders
  - Ensuring the production of quality promotional materials and sending engaging correspondence to participants
  - Creating training budgets and monitoring spend
  - Managing, supporting and co-ordinating SW AHSN sub-contractors and associates in the design and delivering of our capability programmes.
- Supporting and working with our programmes business function to support the delivery of internally focused QI and spread training projects.
- Supporting effective decision-making through the provision of timely and accurate information and the use of critical thinking.
Abilities and attributes

• **Delivery focused** – able to translate ideas and plans into high-impact practical outputs.
• **Effective stakeholder management skills** – with the ability to earn and maintain the trust of internal and external stakeholders at all levels through timely and clear communication and delivery.
• **Adaptability** – able in the moment to appraise and reprioritise tasks calmly.

Experience we are looking for

• Member and stakeholder-focused with empathy for the needs of external stakeholders and a pro-active approach.
• Talented and experienced at delivering multiple complex projects to external stakeholders.
• Collaborative, with a track record in designing and co-ordinating the delivery of training and events.
• Knowledge of innovation, quality improvement and change methodologies.
• Adept at managing large workloads to ensure deadlines are met.

Experience and capabilities you will develop in the role

• **Energetic and goal-focused** – a commitment to delivering excellence in all circumstances.
• **Learning mindset** – a track record of working on complex issues, embedding learning into practice and generating insight to inform approaches.
• **Enthusiastic and engaging** – able to take people on a journey.

Partnerships Manager

**Reporting to:**
Director of Partnerships
The South West Academic Health Science Network (SW AHSN) is one of 15 AHSNs set up by NHS England across the country in 2013. Our purpose is to spread innovative practice across the health and care system, improve population health and generate economic growth.

As the only bodies connecting NHS and academic organisations, local authorities, the third sector and industry, AHSNs are uniquely placed to identify and spread health innovation at pace and scale – driving the adoption and spread of innovative ideas and technologies across large populations.

Our work is funded by NHS England and NHS Improvement, the Office for Life Sciences, and through contributions from our members, as well as income generated through other activities aligned to our core mission and purpose.

In 2018, NHS England and NHS Improvement relicensed AHSNs for a further five years, setting out a clear long-term vision to drive health innovation and stimulate economic growth, meeting the goals of the NHS Long Term Plan and NHS Patient Safety Strategy.

We are an independent company limited by guarantee, governed by a board of directors made up of senior NHS leaders from across our region as well as independent non-executive directors. Based in our award-winning office on the outskirts of Exeter, we work across the counties of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
What we do

We spread innovative practice in health and care across the South West and beyond, and we help build capability vital to its adoption and spread.

We support our partners to evaluate impact and apply learning, and we share knowledge across our health and care, industry, academic and voluntary sectors networks and collaborations.

Each AHSN works within its own area to develop projects, programmes and initiatives that reflect the diversity of our local populations and healthcare challenges. However, we all share the following priorities:

- **Promoting economic growth** – fostering opportunities for industry to work effectively with the NHS.
- **Diffusing innovation** – creating the right environment and supporting collaboration across boundaries in order to adopt and spread innovation at pace and scale.
- **Improving patient safety** – using our knowledge, expertise and networks to bring together patients, health and care staff and partners to determine priorities and develop and implement solutions.
- **Improving quality and reducing variation** – by spreading best practice we increase productivity and reduce variation, thereby improving patient outcomes.
- **Putting research into practice** – our strong links with academia mean we are uniquely placed to support the translation of research into clinical practice.
- **Collaborating on national programmes** – including our unified programmes focused on spreading proven innovations, our Patient Safety Collaboratives and the NHS Innovation Accelerator.

Ours is not a short-term challenge but as the AHSN Network Impact Report 2018/19 demonstrates, AHSNs are already making a difference for patients and the public, for innovators, for clinicians and for the health and care system. Collectively, AHSNs have spread over 330 innovations across 11,000 locations, benefitting 22 million patients, creating 500 jobs and generating £330m investment.

To support the delivery of our strategy and business plan we are structured into five broad business functions:

- Programmes
- Partnerships
- Evaluation and learning
- Communications and engagement
- Corporate operations

The Partnerships Manager sits within the partnerships function, which is led at the executive level by our Director of Partnerships. The Director of Partnerships also leads the Communications and engagement and Evaluation and learning business functions.
Working here

Work environment

The SW AHSN is based in Exeter, Devon, in an award-winning office – an ideal setting for collaborating, convening and growing our internal and external relationships.

We encourage inclusivity and value diversity, actively seeking to work with individuals, partners and organisations from a broad range of backgrounds. We support flexible working, part-time roles and job shares, and are open to applications from people with wide-ranging experiences.

Training and development

We are committed to supporting learning and development through generous individual development budgets, organisation-wide training, and peer-to-peer learning and coaching opportunities.

Benefits

We provide a generous benefits package including employer pension contributions up to 10% and an employee assistance programme with Health Assured.

Wellbeing

Staff wellbeing is a priority for us. We are continuously working with colleagues to provide initiatives that will enhance our team’s health, happiness and general wellbeing.

We provide free fresh fruit in the office, showers and lockers, and there are a number of employee-led activities such as walking meetings and a running club.
Our board is led by an independent chair and composed of a mixture of both executive and independent non-executive members from various clinical and corporate industries.

Executive team

Jon Siddall  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jon joined the SW AHSN in April 2020 to continue his work across the health and care system leading innovation, strategy and building partnerships to improve population health.

Before joining the SW AHSN, Jon spent three years as the Director of Funding at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, helping the charity become recognised as a pioneer in urban health, and leading the design and development of the foundation’s £150 million portfolio of urban health programmes focused on some of the biggest health challenges facing cities around the world.

Prior to his position at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity, Jon worked across a range of health and social issues working with funders, investors and government agencies in the UK, Ireland and New Zealand. Jon’s work included four years at the SW AHSN, helping to launch the organisation and developing a range of successful innovation programmes.

Jon has also held a range of non-executive roles, including seats on the advisory boards of the NHS Innovation Accelerator, SBRI Healthcare, the Health Innovation Network, the Research and Development Board of Guy’s & St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and the UK Taskforce on Multiple Conditions.

Jon has recently relocated to Devon with his wife and two young children.
Dan Lyus
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS

Dan joined the SW AHSN in August 2019. An executive director with experience across commercial, not-for-profit and public sectors, Dan has business development and commissioning expertise as well as strong and broad networks across the health, care, support and housing sectors.

After graduating from the University of Bath in 2005 with a BSc in psychology, Dan joined local government to use his passion and skills to improve life chances for vulnerable people. His work since across social care, mental health, drug and alcohol services, housing, care and support has allowed him to develop a holistic understanding of the drivers of wellbeing. In the last eight years Dan has designed, run and advocated for person-centred, asset-based holistic services.

Dan lives in Devon with his wife and three young children.

Richard Watson
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Rich is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Prior to joining the SW AHSN he worked at the University of Exeter and then Plymouth Marjon University as a director of finance and facilities.

Rich holds the SW AHSN’s information risk and company secretary responsibilities, as well as working locally and nationally on finance, investment and sustainability in practice.

Outside of the office Rich and his family run a smallholding, allowing him to indulge his hill-farming roots in the region.

[Currently appointing]
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES

Our executive team are also members of the board.
Our staff team comprises approximately 40 people who offer wide-ranging professional expertise in finance, healthcare, project management, communications, business development, data analysis, evaluation and knowledge management.

Associate Network

Our Associate Network is a hive of experts, creators, thinkers, and influencers, brought together to tackle big challenges in health and care by developing innovative solutions to transform the patient experience. In curating our Associate Network, we’ve established a pool of like-minded people who provide ideas and expertise, help to spread our work, and act as ambassadors.

The SW AHSN is a membership organisation with partners drawn from a range of collaborating organisations across the South West.

- Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Devon Partnership NHS Trust
- Livewell Southwest
- NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
- NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group
- Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
- Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
- University of Exeter
- University of Plymouth
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Salary and Terms of Employment

Annual salary range £30,000–£40,000 (depending upon experience) plus pension and other benefits.

Applications

We are working hard to ensure we recruit great people and minimise unconscious bias in our selection process. To support us to do so we use the Applied recruitment platform, which anonymises applicants.

To apply for the role, please click here.

In addition you will need to email an up-to-date CV to recruitment@swahsn.com

Closing date for applications is 24:00 midnight on Sunday 6 September.

More information

If you’d like to know more about the role or selection process, or to arrange an informal conversation with Dan Lyus (Director of Partnerships), please contact Sam Horne (HR Advisor) by emailing: sam.horne@swahsn.com.

To find out more about the SW AHSN, please visit www.swahsn.com

You’ll find many SW AHSN staff on Twitter, as well as regular updates on our main @sw_ahsn profile

We’re also on LinkedIn at: www.linkedin.com/company/south-west-academic-health-science-network

Interviews

Interviews will be held on Thursday 10 or Friday 11 September 2020. Successful candidates will be contacted shortly after the closing date to be invited to an interview conducted via video conferencing. Part of the interview process will require candidates to prepare a short presentation task.