



Director of Adult Social Services
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The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the existing inequalities in our society – and that has especially been true for people suffering with poor mental health. AMHPs have provided a lifeline for so many people who have really suffered during the past weeks and months and their skills have, literally, saved lives. Here on the IoW, our AMHPs have done an amazing job and played an invaluable role in providing people with access to support: I am proud of how my AMHP colleagues have advocated for some of our most vulnerable citizens: visiting people when needed, assessing people when needed and securing emergency care and support when needed.

Led by our incoming Service Manager for mental health services, Bev Hull, we have been taking a long look at our current AMHP provision. Despite our very challenging financial situation, we have decided to increase our investment in our AMHPs, remove the need for the service to be augmented by agency locums (as great as those colleagues have been) and ensure that how we operate alongside our local NHS mental health services takes full advantage of the new arrangements the IoW NHS Trust is putting into place with Solent NHS Trust (as part of the NHS response to CQC inspection findings) – so that people receive the quality of response they have the right to expect when they experience poor mental health.

As a consequence, we are looking for AMHPs who are confident, competent and critical thinking in their practice. We are looking for AMHPs who are person centred in their values. And we are looking for AMHPs who are able to demonstrate a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the people they serve.

The Isle of Wight is a great place to live and work. The island boasts some of the country's foremost music and sailing events. Housing, relatively speaking, is affordable and the majority of schools are now rated as good or above by Ofsted. No matter where you live on the island, a beach is no more than 20 minutes away. But be under no illusion, the Isle of Wight is no professional "backwater". The array of needs we face locally is every bit as complex and diverse as you will find anywhere on the "north island". And, as a department we have made massive strides in improving outcomes via the implementation of our ambitious Care Close to Home strategy. And as part of this strategy, over the past three years we have doubled our level of investment in learning and development for colleagues.

The people we serve on the Isle of Wight deserve the best professionals possible. In terms of recruiting the best AMHPs possible, we are too small for you to be anonymous, even when you are working overnight or on the weekends. You will receive effective supervision, management support and access to ongoing learning opportunities. You will, in short, be valued - as we know that valuing you is the best way to ensure that citizens with poor mental health also feel valued.

I hope that you will decide to take a closer look and I look forward to receiving an application from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Tozer', written in a cursive style.

Dr Carol Tozer

Director of Adult Social Care and Housing Needs