

Call for Expressions of Interest to recruit MECC for Cancer Pathways Lead Trainers and Trainers

The Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) and Health Education England (HEE) North are calling for expressions of interest from individuals and/or organisations (primary, secondary, community, tertiary or voluntary) with an interest in the promotion and delivery of Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Mental Health in Cancer pathways. Non-clinical organisations and individuals with links to cancer care pathways are welcome to participate.

Following a successful pilot, this project aims to upskill the workforce by supplying high quality and evidence based mental health and wellbeing training that develops knowledge, skills, and confidence to integrate relevant messages and interventions into routine practice.

The Training Programme

Embedding the MECC approach and promoting mental health and wellbeing are current national priorities for the health system. To support this project, GM Cancer, RSPH and HEE with the aid of a multidisciplinary expert group, have developed and tested with over 1000 staff across the North, a blended learning training programme that can be implemented by beneficiary organisations.

The independent evaluation of the training found statistically significant increases in participants' capability, opportunity, and motivation to have conversations with people about their mental health, and to refer people for further support. The follow-up stage of the evaluation also found a statistically significant increase in the number of conversations about mental health and wellbeing which participants were having, compared with before the training.

The end-user training has been designed to be delivered virtually or in a classroom setting and the content is organised in three modules:

- Module One: Introduction to MECC for Mental Health
- Module Two: Knowledge and Skills – having a MECC for Mental Health Conversation
- Module Three: Signposting and Pathways

Please [click here to access the full training content](#).

Lead Trainers and Trainers are upskilled to deliver this content through a 2-day session, RSPH will then provide them a full set of training materials, including a slide deck with Tutor notes, a 30-minute online learning per module and the learner workbook. In addition, RSPH will provide ongoing guidance and logistical support for the delivery of at least one training session for Trainers who require support.

The recommended delivery of the content is either: one full day session of 7 guided learning hours, or three sessions of three guided learning hours each. However, the content can be

condensed and delivered in shorter sessions depending on the trainees needs, there are guidance and materials in place (including e-learning) to support this process.

Furthermore, the programme has an optional complementary module on the menopause which can be accessed and delivered by any MECC for Mental Health Trainer or Lead Trainer.

Benefits to Organisations

Organisations hosting Lead Trainers and Trainers will be in a prime position to make the most of the of this opportunity by building internal capacity for mental health promotion within a cancer setting.

This is an opportunity for organisations to demonstrate leadership in mental health promotion as an integral part of patient/service users care. As such, organisations interested in taking part will also have an interest in sustaining this work beyond the project as part of their ongoing development.

Benefits to Individuals

Their involvement is an opportunity for professional development and peer learning through:

- RSPH Membership: one year of membership of the RSPH at [Associate grade](#) for Trainers, and [Member grade](#) for Lead Trainers.
- Ongoing subject related professional development opportunities including, feedback, 1:1 sessions, webinars and refresher sessions.
- Accredited training and access to training support materials
- Access to a trainer hub which will support interaction and peer-learning of the regional network of MECC for mental health trainers.

Requirements for Lead Trainers

Each Lead trainer must commit to an equivalent of 5 days of their time between September 2022 and February 2023 to:

1. Attend the MECC for MH train the trainer (TtT) session (approximately 2 days equivalent divided in three sessions of blended learning)
2. Register as MECC for MH Lead Trainer (involves email exchange and attendance to a 1 hour workshop laying out the expectations of the project such as quality assurance and evaluation requirements, targets and timescales)
3. Support the development of the TtT programme through feedback and evaluation and quality assurance activities (approximately 1 hour involving communication with trainees, attending interviews as requested by the evaluation partner, observing a proportion of their trainees' sessions).
4. Delivery of a TtT session to 7-10 trainers (2 days equivalent)
5. Delivery 1:1 sessions with each of their trainees (approximately 0.5 days involving up to an hour per trainee and some email exchange)

Please note that this is a guide and whilst the time requirements are not likely to change much, the tasks may be modified according to locality's/trainees needs.

Selection criteria for Lead Trainers

All Lead Trainers must have:

- Competency in delivering Train the Trainer programmes or equivalent
- Excellent communication skills
- Good understanding of health behaviour change models and practices
- Good understanding of mental health promotion
- Good understanding of person-centred approaches
- Good understanding of the Making Every Contact Count approach
- Support from their organisation/manager so they can meet the required commitments of this project (should they be still practicing clinically)
- An interest in delivering this training and becoming a champion beyond the project.

Those who are work privately or have retired from a career in Oncology are encouraged to apply. Furthermore, individuals in non-clinical roles are also welcome to apply.

To accompany this offer, a £1,000 training grant is available for the individual or the organisation employing the individual.

If you are interested in being a Lead Trainer, please contact gmcancer.wf_ed@nhs.net for an initial conversation.

Requirements for Trainers

Each Trainer must commit to an equivalent of 3.5 days of their time between September 2022 and February 2023 broken down as follows:

- Undertake the MECC for MH train the trainer session (approximately 2 days equivalent divided in three sessions of blended learning)
- Register MECC for MH Trainer (involves email exchange and attendance to a 1 hour workshop to lay out the expectations of the project such as quality assurance and evaluation requirements, targets and timescales)
- Deliver training for 12-15 individuals. Each Trainer should train at least 12 individuals. (3 x 3-hour sessions)
- Support the development of the training programme by providing feedback and evaluation (up to 1 hour).
- Attend a 1:1 session with their Lead Trainer (up to 1 hour long).
- Attend a minimum of one refresher session (there will be 3 sessions of up to one hour long)

Note: all administrative work associated with the delivery of courses will be facilitated centrally by RSPH.

Selection Criteria for Trainers

All Trainers must have:

- Experience and competency in delivering training or equivalent
- Excellent communication skills
- Understanding of the Making Every Contact Count approach
- Support from their organisation/manager so they can meet the required commitments of this project

It is also desirable that Trainers have:

- Good understanding of mental health promotion
- Good understanding of health behaviour change models and practices
- Good understanding of person-centred approaches

Those whose role is non-clinical are welcome to apply. Furthermore, individuals who work privately or have retired from a career in Oncology are also eligible. Furthermore, this is a great opportunity for someone seeking some leadership and experience.

To accompany this offer, a training grant is available for each cohort of training delivered. £200 will be provided after completion of one training session. £100 will be provided for each subsequent training delivery, up to a maximum of 3. The maximum grant available for each Trainer is £400.

If you are interested in being a Trainer, please contact gmcancer.wf_ed@nhs.net for an initial conversation.

Organisational Support

Key to the delivery of high quality MECC for mental health training is the commitment and support from the employing organisation who would also champion this initiative. For those still working within the NHS or other supportive organisations, Trainers will only be selected if they are working within organisations where there is an explicit support from the senior and/or clinical management and alignment to organisational strategic priorities.

Contact Us

For further information on this project, questions around trainer eligibility or anything else related to the pilot, please contact gmcancer.wf_ed@nhs.net