

NHS Education for Scotland

Rural Fellowships in General Practice – Local Job Information

Information for NHS Highland, West: Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Rural Fellowship

Background

The Skye Lochalsh and Wester Ross area is part of the North and West Operational Unit within NHS Highland. Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross are a natural geographical grouping in the West Highlands which is centred on the Isle of Skye. This acts as the administrative and medical hub for a diverse group of remote and rural communities encompassing the communities of Glenelg, Kyle of Lochalsh, Broadford, Sleat, Carbost, Dunvegan, Portree on the Isle of Skye and Applecross, Torridon, Lochcarron, Ullapool and Gairloch in Wester Ross. The local cultural identity is enhanced by the mountains, islands and musical tradition of the area. It has access to the complete range of outdoor sports. Tourism, fish farming, forestry, crafting and fishing are the economic drivers in addition to good quality public services from the NHS, Education and NHS Highland and Highland Council.

Mackinnon Memorial Hospital is based on the Isle of Skye and is run by Rural Practitioners who also provide OOH for the practices patients on the Island. Portree Hospital at the North of the Island is a GP led facility which provides OOH until 2300 hours each evening.

There are seven general practices in Skye and Lochalsh, the majority of which are salaried apart from Dunvegan Medical Practice, Kyle of Lochalsh Medical Practice and Portree Medical Practice, which gives the Fellowship post unique access to the complete range of remote and rural general practices, from large health centres (5,250 patients) to rural dispensing practices and the remote practices of the Small Isles, (Rum Eigg, Muck and Canna) (163 patients) .We have our own charter board and one of the GPs from the South Skye practice visits patients on these Islands twice a week. There is a purpose built surgery and practice manager on the Isle of Eigg which acts as the hub for the Small Isles.

The primary role of the Rural Fellow will be to support our salaried practices during GP annual leave and study leave. We have a rural support team in the West of Highland which consists of a mix of healthcare professionals; GPs, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Unscheduled Nurse Practitioners and Paramedic Practitioners, all these disciplines either work or will work together providing healthcare to the populations within the West Operational Unit.

Base/Host Practices

The host practices for the Rural Fellowship will be South Skye Medical Practice. South Skye Medical Practice is a large health centre practice which is an accredited training practice for GPST's, FY2's and undergraduates. Commitment to the Medical Practice will be discussed with the Primary Care Manager, who will Line Manage the Rural Fellow, acknowledging the challenges the of the geographical layout of the Operational Unit.

Education Experience

The rural fellow will have a unique insight into the Rural Support Team, an innovative model developed and evaluated on behalf of Scottish Government. Telehealth, team work and new ways of working relevant the whole of remote practice in Scotland will be under scrutiny. The 2018 Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross rural fellowship will be a unique opportunity to observe the process and contribute!

How the scheme works:

Service Commitment

Rural Fellows are usually allocated to two or three practices, where they will provide the majority of their service commitment. These practices will be agreed as the beginning of the rural fellow year. One practice will usually be a more remote and rural dispensing practice to give the rural fellow the opportunity to experience all aspects of rural General Practice.

The service commitment practices can be in more than one area. If required to travel to an area away from their normal base practice, accommodation will be arranged.

13 weeks would be available for the Educational component working in a practice and would be arranged in agreement between the North and West Primary Care Manager, and NHS Education for Scotland. Alternatively the educational component could be in another part of Highland, and this would again be agreed.

Duties

Duties will include the full range of general practice duties during the Rural Fellows time in any General Practice, including working in the local RGH if appropriate. They will be expected to play a full part in all aspects of the practice and work alongside the members of the extended primary care team.

OOHs Element

While based in practices that have opted-out of OOHs there will be no requirement to do any OOHs sessions, however the rural fellows may wish to work in the local OOHs scheme in addition to their rural fellow role. This would be paid in addition to their rural fellow salary. However some work experience will be required in remote practices, when the Fellow will have to provide OOHs cover overnight and occasionally at weekends. Attendance at the BASiCs course would be expected before covering OOHs in rural areas. Fellows are expected as part of their educational programme to gain experience in Out of Hours and Emergency Care.

Supervision in Practice

A principle in one of the above practices will be identified as a mentor/supervisor and will be available to the Fellow when working in other rural practices.

Education in Practice

Fellows will be expected to join in with the educational activities available within the practices that they are working.

During the Fellowship the successful candidate would be expected to complete the required courses and projects to achieve certification of successful completion. The development work above would be considered as part of the GP rural fellowship project work required for certification.

13 Weeks Protected Educational Time

This will be organised in conjunction with the service elements of the posts and with the Rural Fellowship Co-ordinator. Fellows will have the opportunity to negotiate additional experience in secondary care, remote practices and to undertake specific course activity as available. Fellows will also be expected to attend the regular meetings of the Scottish Rural Fellows. This Job Description is not definitive and may be subject to change in discussion with the Fellow, Primary Care manager and NES.

See also...

For more information on the Rural Support team/Small Isles model, here's an example of the project newsletter:

<http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Publications/Documents/Newsletters/Small%20Isles%20leaflet%20August%202016.pdf>

For more information on the area see <https://www.visitfortwilliam.co.uk>.

Further information on NHS Highland is available at: <http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk>.

For an informal discussion feel free to telephone:

Evan Beswick, Acting Primary Care Manager (GMS), North and West Operational Unit, evan.beswick@nhs.net or 07825 104260.

Fiona MacKenzie, Acting Primary Care Manager (2C), North and West Operational Unit, fiona.mackenzie10@nhs.net or 01349 869220.