

## NHS Education for Scotland

### Rural Fellowships in General Practice – Local Job Information

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

*A one-year fellowship based in stunning Skye, with the possibility of supporting the unique and world-leading model of care in the Small Isles. This innovative fellowship will link both with GP practices and the established team of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (Broadford and Portree based) for a multi-disciplinary educational experience.*

#### Background



One of the most breathtaking destinations in Europe, the area is centred around the famous Isle of Skye, dominated by the imposing Cuillin ridge. 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 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. This is a unique model, derived from the 'Nuka' health system of Alaska, which the fellow is welcome and encouraged to become involved in.

The service provision 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 likely be Dunvegan Medical Practice This is a three-doctor dispensing practice with excellent GP mentoring experience. 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.

**Rural Support Team** – A unique feature of this fellowship is the connection with the 'Rural Support Team' (RST) – a team of highly trained advanced nurse practitioners based on Skye and covering both in hours and out of hours primary care. The fellow would be supported to engage with RST educational activities and team meetings, providing a completely new perspective on the provision of services in rural areas. It is entirely expected that this link with a fellow will be beneficial for the RST, too!

### **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 eg Skye/Lochalsh/Wester Ross. If required to travel to an area away from their normal base practice, accommodation will be arranged.

### **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 Community Hospital 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 service in addition to their rural fellow role. This would be paid in addition to their rural fellow salary. 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.

## **Local Educational Opportunities**

A variety of regional educational activities are available including courses such as Advanced Life Support and attachment potential in various part of Highland i.e. Raigmore Hospital and Caithness General etc. The Rural Fellow will also be able to attend local PLT events, along with various local meeting meetings.

## **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, North and West 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.isleofskye.com/>

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

For an informal discussion feel free to telephone:

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