**Cystic Fibrosis Trust Physiotherapy Fellowship**

**Purpose:**

* Improve opportunities for physiotherapists to gain experience of all aspects of cystic fibrosis (CF) care.
* Provide CF specific education, experience and skills to early career CF specialist physiotherapists.
* Assist the fellow with succession planning by providing education and experience under the supervision of a specialised physiotherapist
* Provide education and information to the wider physiotherapy and MDT at the home centre.
* Produce physiotherapy related audit/service evaluation of a presentable and publishable quality.
* The fellowship will produce physiotherapists with strong and broad skills who have the ability to lead a quality CF physio service and who have the ability to impact on the wider CF service at their centre/network as well as at a national/international level.

**Background:**

This fellowship has been developed to provide structured experience and training to potential leaders. It aims not only to benefit the person undertaking the fellowship but also to help with succession planning and to improve knowledge throughout an MDT.

There is currently no formal structure to the career path to leading a CF physiotherapy service. A peer review by physiotherapists highlighted great variability in the skills and experience of the lead physiotherapist at each centre/network. This has led to a number of centres struggling to fill CF physiotherapy leadership posts with suitably skilled and experienced staff. It also means some leadership roles have been downgraded to reflect staff expertise.

Now in its fourth year, previous fellows have managed to widen their knowledge on physiotherapy care for people with cystic fibrosis, widen their network to learn from other experts in the community and undertake research/service improvement project within their own centre systems. This has better prepared them and provided them with the skills and knowledge to provide higher quality of cystic fibrosis care and develop the tools needed to progress their career within this area.

**The physiotherapy fellowship:**

The fellowship provides full backfill to an experienced band 6 or new (first two years) band 7 working within CF so making the successful candidate supernumerary. The physiotherapist will be based within their current workplace as a ‘home centre’ but will complete a tailored education/experience programme involving the following aspects:

* Intensive time at other centres to focus on key areas of CF care (including both paediatrics and adults).
* A wider education programme including structured time with the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, CSP, commissioners and physiotherapy consultants/leaders.
* Attendance at key meetings (CAG, PROB, centre directors, CRG, ACPCF committee)
* Completion of a leadership module.
* Attendance at key meetings including ECFS, NACFC, the CF Trust conference, RSM, ACPCF study days, the Brompton course.
* Completion of an audit or service evaluation.
* Completion of a service improvement project.
* Supervision of and dissemination of education/experience to the physiotherapist providing backfill and MDT.
* Presentation at the end of the fellowship to the ACPCF at the annual study days and also at a Cystic Fibrosis Trust flash meeting.

The successful candidate will have a clinical supervisor who will be the principal CF physiotherapist within their current workplace. If they do not have access to a physiotherapist with this level of experience within their own centre, a suitably experienced physiotherapist from within the ACPCF would be chosen. They will have regular supervision sessions throughout the term of the fellowship.

**Who would be eligible?**

The fellowship would be aimed at the following staff employed within the NHS: band 6 physiotherapists with a minimum of eighteen months respiratory experience and at least six months CF experience through to band 7 physiotherapists in the first two years of working within CF care. This is open to physiotherapists working with paediatrics and adults.

**Potential benefits to the person undertaking the fellowship:**

• Protected time to develop knowledge, experience and skills focused on the care of people with CF and on leadership.

• Gain understanding of the similarities and differences in care across different centres/networks.

• A wider understanding of the structure of CF and physiotherapy services in the UK (including commissioning, patient and professional bodies, etc).

• Practical experience of audit and service evaluation.

• Leadership qualification.

• Practical experience in mentoring/ disseminating new knowledge and experiences.

• Enhanced CV.

**Potential benefits to the centre/network hosting the fellowship:**

• Development of high-quality leaders within the centre/network.

• Development of thephysiotherapy teamand service within the centre/network.

• Dissemination of knowledge, skills and experience through the MDT.

• Strengthening of links between the centre/network and other centres/networks, patient/professional bodies and commissioners.

• Production of high-quality audit/service improvement.

**Potential benefits to the CF physiotherapy profession:**

• The development of strong, knowledgeable and experienced physiotherapy leaders.

• Strengthening of links between physiotherapists and the wider CF clinical community including patient/professional bodies and commissioners.

• Demonstration of the benefits of fellowships such as this which may assist the development of fellowships in other clinical areas.

**Potential benefits to people with CF and their families:**

• Access to physiotherapists with wide knowledge and experience.

• A physiotherapy and wider CF service which is influenced by wide knowledge and experience including experience of other CF services across the UK.

• National policy and practice influenced by knowledgeable and experienced physiotherapists.

**Applications:**

**To apply for the physiotherapist fellowship please complete and email the attached application form along with your CV to** **clinicalaffairs@cysticfibrosis.org.uk** **by Friday 21st February 2020.**

Applications will be reviewed by the chair and vice chair of the ACPCF and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust’s Clinical Advisory Group, chaired by Dr Keith Brownlee, Director of Policy, Programmes and Support