



Retained Crisis Intervention worker

Retained crisis intervention workers are a vital part of Valued Lives crisis service, preventing suicide throughout Cornwall.

Retained crisis workers are based throughout Cornwall, and will cover localities within a 30 minute drive from their location, unless otherwise agreed.

Retained workers will be called upon to attend emergency responses to individuals at risk of suicide. Unfortunately, despite intense efforts throughout multi-agency suicide prevention groups, suicide rates in Cornwall remain high. The purpose of the retained crisis intervention team, is to provide an emergency in person response to those at risk of suicide and requiring compassionate support in order to stay safe.

The retained crisis team will work in collaboration with Devon and Cornwall police, and the South West ambulance services, to achieve a timely and appropriate response, in addition to relieving police and ambulance crews to attend other medical and criminal emergencies.

What is a Crisis intervention worker?

Apart from a few hours a month for training sessions and to carry out other pre-arranged duties, retained workers only attend a call out when they have received an emergency request. Each retained worker carries an alert device, which is activated when they are needed. They then have a maximum of 30 minutes to report to base and mobilise the necessary response. Retained workers will often have other occupations, but when the call comes they drop whatever they are doing and become part of a multi-agency emergency response team. Depending on the type of cover given, a retained worker may respond from home and/or work, day and / or night. Incentives are available for employers who are willing to cooperate in providing the opportunity for retained workers to respond in this way.

On average Valued Lives receive 19 emergency call outs per week throughout Cornwall, though this can vary; we predict that the number will rise with the expansion of the service. We are therefore looking to occupy a 7 day cover with 2 reserve workers in each of the 8 localities throughout Cornwall, at any 1 time. Because the ideal is to have more workers available than are needed to crew each team, you won't have to attend every call. In addition when you really can't spare the time, you can sign off duty, providing there are enough staff available to respond within that time period.

Your Commitment

We can offer several types of retained contracts with different levels of commitment based around the hours of cover you can offer. A full rate day contract is usually based on offering 105 hours of cover per week between the hours of 7am-10pm, week on week off, with a full rate night contract providing 63 hours per week of cover between the hours of 10pm-7am. Dependent on your circumstances alternative arrangements can be made. Generally, those unable to commit to a 7 day cover, may

deliver a half week cover every week and retain the full rate contract, or alternatively provide a half rate contract by providing half week cover, maintaining week on week off shift patterns. Under some circumstances we can enhance a contractual cover for 308 days per year, dependent on other commitments and health status.

Community Suicide Prevention

The role of the reserve worker has been introduced this year, to greatly enhance the provision of urgent care for Cornish communities. Retained workers play an important role within their communities, by helping to promote suicide awareness, giving mental health and wellbeing advice to schools and other organisations, as well as carrying out free reviews of suicide prevention dedication for organisations and workplaces.

The Retained Application Process

If you are thinking about joining as a retained crisis intervention worker, then you can attend one of our monthly recruitment sessions, bookable from our recruitment page. The link for this is below:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/RecruitmentPortal@valuedlives.co.uk/bookings/>

The following information will give you a basic idea of the requirements:-

The application process for becoming a Retained Crisis intervention worker will be almost identical to the process for becoming a wholetime Crisis intervention worker in the same service.

The basic process will include an application form, a group interview session, and an individual formal interview.

Training

Retained workers will be required to carry out the same level of training as all other crisis work employees, which will include, but is not limited to, a 3 week mandatory training induction, ASIST suicide intervention training. You will need to carry out initial training before you can safely respond to emergency calls. You will have the opportunity to complete a full level 3 or level 5 diploma through our training centre.

Ongoing training will require attendance at a 2 or 3 hour monthly drill plus periodic refresher courses in areas such as health and safety, suicide intervention, and safeguarding. You may also have the opportunity to undertake optional training courses in order to gain extra skills.

Payment

Retained workers receive payment for the work they undertake. Exactly how your payment is structured varies dependent on contract type. You will be paid a retaining fee to be paid based on the hours per week you are contracted to be on call, plus payments for responding to calls, carrying out community suicide prevention work etc. These extra payments are based on the hourly rate for a crisis worker.

The current rates for these payments are £131.25 per week for a full rate reserve fee, and a £15 per hour fee for response. You should expect to receive around 4 call outs per week, with 2-3 hours per call out.