

Access to Healthcare Campaigner @ Medact

Salary: £30,000 - £32,000, dependent on skills and experience

Contract: One-year fixed term, with possible extension subject to funding

Hours: Full-time, 35 hours/week

Background

Medact's mission is to support health professionals from all disciplines to work together towards a world in which everyone can truly achieve and exercise their human right to health. We work on some of the most pressing national and global threats to health and wellbeing including climate change; human rights; conflict and violence; and rising inequality. We're a member-led organisation, and our members are made up of a range of health professionals including nurses, doctors, midwives, and clinical researchers.

Medact has a long history of campaigning to ensure migrants and vulnerable people can access the healthcare they need. We think eligibility checks and charging for 'overseas visitors' to use NHS services are the biggest threats to healthcare access right now. Our members have told us charging is unethical, unworkable, and a public health risk. We're working with Migrants Organise, Docs not Cops, and others to support health professionals to speak out, and to call on Government to scrap the charging regulations.

This role will lead our work on healthcare charging, co-ordinating our work with coalition partners and receiving mentoring and support from colleagues at Migrants Organise.

Job role and purpose

The Access to Healthcare campaigner leads Medact's work to ensure everyone in the UK can access the healthcare they need.

Policy, advocacy and coalition working

Lead Medact's campaigning and advocacy work on access to healthcare including:

- Develop campaign strategies, with the support of the Executive Director and where appropriate in collaboration with partners including Migrants Organise; and lead on delivery of the strategy
- Devise and deliver tactics in line with strategy
- Develop evidence-based policy positions, and act as Medact's in-house expert on access to healthcare

- Work with the Research Manager to identify and conduct research projects which will help strengthen the campaign
- Maintain strong relationships with coalition partners, ensuring that we can work to a common plan

Work with health professionals

- Working with the Movement Builder, develop and deliver a strategy and action plan to engage large numbers of health professionals in our Access to Healthcare work, through workplace organising and other means
- Support existing Medact and other groups working on migrant access to healthcare, in particular the Refugee Solidarity Group, local groups such as Medact Manchester, and individuals, to take leadership in Medact campaigns and run their own
- Organise information and capacity-building events for health professionals
- Identify and engage senior-level health professionals who could be strategically useful, in our campaigns

Communications

- Draft and issue press comments; maintain relationships with key journalists, support our members to act as Medact media spokespeople, and where appropriate act as a spokesperson yourself.
- Represent Medact as a speaker at events and workshops, and support Medact members to do the same
- Write copy for briefings, blogs, emails to members, and other communications
- Maintain the Access to Healthcare content on the Medact website, ensuring that it is up-to-date and engaging
- Manage Medact's social media presence with relation to access to healthcare

Person specification

Essential

- A strategic thinker with demonstrable understanding of the political and policy context of the impact of 'hostile environment' policies on access to healthcare for migrants
- Experience of campaigning, in a personal or professional capacity
- Strong understanding of how structural inequality has an impact on the issues Medact works on, and the ways in which different communities within the health sector are able to engage with us.

- Experience of working with volunteers in a campaigning context, either professionally, or as a volunteer yourself
- Experience of working with traditional and new media, including gaining proactive and reactive press coverage, and effective use of social media in a campaigning context
- Excellent verbal communication, listening, and interpersonal skills; able to build trusting relationships with a variety of people and bring them onboard with a project or idea, and empower them to take their own ideas forwards
- Excellent written skills, experienced at writing for varied audiences using a variety of communication channels
- Experience of coalition working, with strong ability to build good working relationships with partners
- Good project and event management skills
- An understanding of digital campaigning techniques and how to use them
- Ability to manage own time, and prioritise effectively between competing demands, in response to quickly-changing situations
- A strong team player who can contribute to our friendly, small office team

Desirable

- A registered health professional or experience of working with the health community
- Specific experience of campaigning on healthcare rights or other human rights