

RUTH STRAUSS FOUNDATION

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Ruth Strauss Foundation Training Programme Project Manager
Salary:	Commensurate with experience
Responsible to:	CEO, Ruth Strauss Foundation
Accountable to:	Family Support Advisory Group Board of the Ruth Strauss Foundation
Hours per week:	Five days per week
Location:	Will require some travel

Ruth Strauss Foundation

Early 2018, Ruth Strauss, wife of Sir Andrew Strauss the former England cricket captain, was diagnosed with an incurable lung cancer that affects non-smokers. Ruth died on December 29th 2018; she was 46 years old and mother to two children, then aged 10 and 13.

In her memory, Sir Andrew has launched The Ruth Strauss Foundation to:

- Provide emotional support for families to prepare for the death of a parent from cancer
- Raise awareness of the need for more research & collaboration in the fight against non-smoking lung cancers.

Training Programme for Professionals in Health Care and Education

We believe that every family facing the death of a parent from cancer, should be offered emotional support to help prepare for their children's futures.

Families are very individual in how they deal with the death of a parent. The approach they take will reflect their own culture, dynamic and need. However, it is typically rooted in trying to protect their children. Parents often fear what to share and how much to tell them and worry over the best time to talk with them. This is a time when Parents need to be supported to make the best decisions they can for their children during this time.

Healthcare services provide inconsistent support to families of dependent children when one parent is diagnosed with life-limiting illness; for many parents, it could be better. Parents' needs are considerable. They report needing support in finding the best way to help their children to prepare for their parent dying and with mustering the strength to have these conversations and be strong for their children.

The outcomes of children being unprepared for their parent dying are clear. Evidence shows that without suitable support, open and honest communication, and cohesive family relationships, children can find grief and adaptation to bereavement hard to manage. This can have serious implications for their long term psychological wellbeing⁸, and affect important everyday activities, including schooling. Children wish to be informed about

their parent's illness and prognosis and can be resilient if given age-appropriate information when a parent is dying and when supported to grieve.

Lack of training for, and support for professionals is one factor affecting parental support that appears amenable to change. Nurses explicitly state a desire for training and support in preparing families for the death of a parent. The little training available currently is reported to be too generic and insufficient.

However, some healthcare services do provide comprehensive support to parents and children; they may also run training to prepare staff in meeting parents' needs. If most services were improved to equal the support provided by the best, the experiences of families facing a parent dying could be radically enhanced. In addition, as children spend much of their time in education in the school setting then enabling teachers to support families where a parent has an incurable illness, is likely to also improve the children's experience and recovery.

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Development and evaluation of such training could have a profound benefit for parents and their children and bring about a step-change in the support services provided when a parent has incurable cancer.

Job Purpose

This role will coordinate the development, piloting and evaluation of the Ruth Strauss Foundation Training Programme. If the pilot is successful, this role may evolve to deliver the roll-out of the Ruth Strauss Foundation Training Programme in Health Care and Education. The primary objective of the Programme will be to give Health Care professionals (and teachers) the skills and knowledge that will help them to support parents with their children through grief.

This is a new role to really make a difference in this area and champion best practice when it comes to supporting people through grief.

Key Milestones:

1. Scope out the resources and support currently available to families when a parent has cancer that cannot be cured and incurable illnesses more generally.
2. Project manage the co-creation process that will inform and shape the programme, including recruiting and working with appropriate providers to deliver the healthcare professionals pilot.
3. Evaluate the success and impact of the programme to determine the feasibility of rolling this programme out further.

Key relationships

- CEO of the Ruth Strauss Foundation
- Executive Team of the Ruth Strauss Foundation
- Members of the RSF Family Support Advisory Group
- Board of the Ruth Strauss Foundation
- External partners and supporters

Role Profile and Key Result Areas

- Background scoping of the resources currently available that support families when a parent has cancer that cannot be cured, and incurable illnesses more generally. This includes support to children as well as to parents.
- Lead the co-creation process that will inform the objectives, design and content of the Ruth Strauss Foundation Training Programme, including the method of delivery for health care professionals (e.g. experiential, practical)
- Develop the Ruth Strauss Foundation Training Programme which includes digital assets to support/or deliver the learning
- Design a roadmap for implementation and be responsible for the project plan keeping to 'time and task'
- Work with RSF CEO to agree Project KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and targets
- Lead on the Training Programme budget scoping and be responsible for budget management
- Lead and project manage the pilot of the Training Programme
- Develop evaluation tools and measure impact of Training Programme on families and professionals
- Identify and recruit suppliers / partners /platforms required to support the Training Programme, agree scope of work and manage these relationships and ensure that any provider work to the values and Spirit of the Foundation
- Support the RSF Head of Marcomms and Digital to design the look and feel of the Training Programme, including associated materials and launch plan
- Written report and presentations of process and impact of project including feedback on the programmes, case study examples, costs and other agreed evaluation measures

What we are looking for:

In addition to someone who can embody the spirit of the RSF, you should also have the following skills and experience:

- Educated to masters level or service improvement field or equivalent level of experience working at a senior level in a clinical area.
- Brilliant project management skills: previous experience of delivering complex projects including managing stakeholders; prioritizing work, budget management and success measures
- Understanding of the impact of cancer on patients and their family, and knowledge of the elements of NHS agenda in relation to cancer services
- Experience of developing and delivering communication skills training programmes, including an understanding of learning styles, ways to engage and evaluation
- Demonstrable achievements in improving services for patients as part of a service improvement project/programme
- Experience of building effective and productive relationships with a wide range of people at all levels and in all settings

- Ability to design and evaluate quantitative and qualitative measures of success
- Able to deal with highly sensitive and sometime difficult interactions, with individuals who may hold differing views, and supporting delivery of difficult messages where required
- Diplomatic and tactful. Confidence to be assertive when required
- Experience of working autonomously and as a self-starter

How to apply:

Please send your CV and covering letter to Rosie Ranganathan by 9th October 2020.

rosie.ranganathan@ruthstraussfoundation.com

The shortlisted applicants will be asked to interview via zoom week commencing 19th October 2020 with a view to appoint the successful applicant by 2nd November 2020.

If you have any queries on this role, please contact Rosie Ranganathan

rosie.ranganathan@ruthstraussfoundation.com

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