



With our lives getting busier by the day, you might be forgiven for thinking that the island's fine tradition of honorary service was under threat – not a bit of it. Many islanders still give up an incredible amount of their time to help good causes, and so we plan to recognise that in each edition of Connect, in this Charity Champion feature. We'll be celebrating those individuals who normally go unremarked – but without their work, Guernsey just wouldn't be the place that it is. E-mail [editor@bailiwickexpress.com](mailto:editor@bailiwickexpress.com) if you know of someone who fits the bill.

# Louise Misselke Charity Champion



Principal, Guernsey College of Further Education

## What are the current voluntary roles you fill? I am the Chair of Health Connections Guernsey LBG

### What type of activity do you get involved with?

As Chair, I run the board meetings and along with the other board members, and our Chief Executive, drive the transformational change that the charity has recently undergone.

In the last two years, we have restructured the charity and redefined our strategic objectives. We now have a clear vision and role in the community. We have aligned to HSC transformation agenda, and current health and social policy.

Our new mission is to ensure that all people in the Bailiwick are connected to support and information that enables them to live healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives. This is an ambitious mission for Health Connections. So far, we are proud to have created the first online directory of support for all people living in the Bailiwick. We train Community Connectors to signpost people to this support. We offer people one-to-one support, coaching and advocacy and help others find out more about what matters to them. We also take people to this support in our voluntary transport service.

This directory-to-doorstep support enables a stronger and more connected community where all people can flourish.

### How long have you been involved with the charity?

I have been involved with this charity and its predecessor since 2003.

### What made you want to get involved with Health Connections?

I started my career as a nurse working in hospital settings but also public health.



At Health Connections we are proud to work with an incredible range of partners.

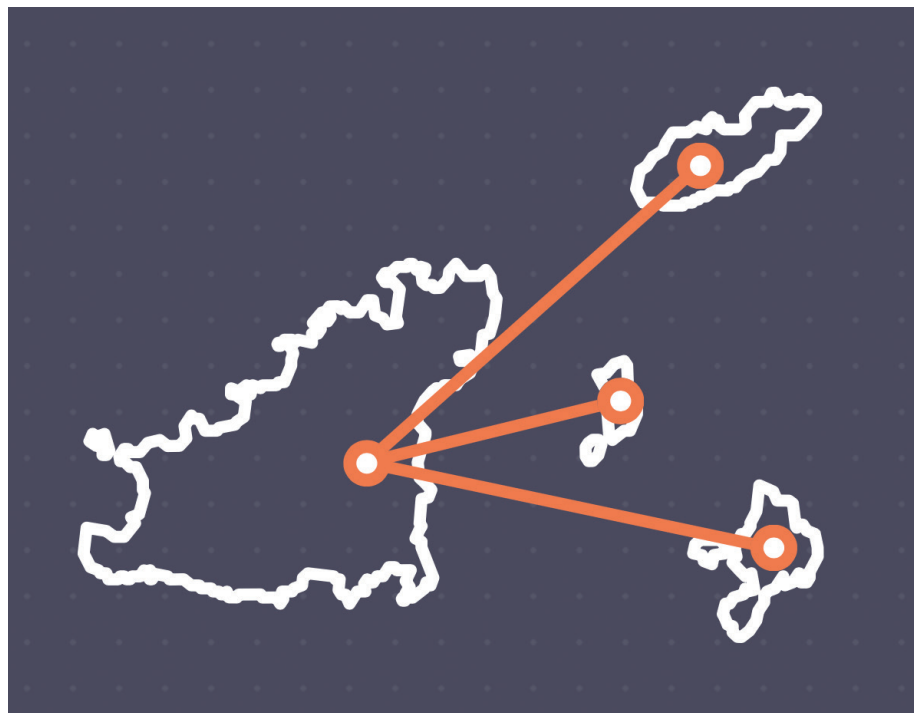


Being able to contribute to the work of a local charity that is so progressive has allowed me in some way to keep up with the changes in health and social care.

### How important is it for professional individuals to be involved in local charities and why?

It's really hard for any charity or third sector organisation to continue to do the brilliant work they do without support from a diverse range of people including professionals who work in other sectors. At Health Connections we are proud to work with an incredible range of partners.

Research shows that giving makes you happier than receiving. With this in mind, I feel that we are really lucky and should be proud to live in such a vibrant community with a huge range of third sector organisations who welcome support. Giving time makes me feel really positive, and it's something I would recommend to anyone.



**health connections**

If anyone would like to know more about Health Connections and join in with our work, they can email [hello@healthconnections.gg](mailto:hello@healthconnections.gg) or visit our website [www.healthconnections.gg](http://www.healthconnections.gg).