**Participants required for upcoming Advocacy Procurement**

Background:

London Borough of Hackney [LBH] Council is looking at new independent advocacy services for the borough.

Following what people have told us, we will be looking for a Single Advocacy Provider, so one main organisation, to deliver statutory advocacy [what we have to provide by law].

For example Independent Mental Health Advocates [IMHA], are specifically trained advocates who can advocate for patients under the Mental Health Act 1983.

The Provider will also be responsible for non-statutory advocacy, which is an independent person that ensures a person [like you] is kept at the heart of all decisions and that their voice is heard.

The service will make sure vulnerable residents are given a voice, to have choice and control in decisions that affect them.

The service will focus mainly on statutory advocacy to meet demand for those with the highest need. The service needs to be of good quality and value for money.

The new service will also make sure small and medium sized enterprises have a role in advocacy services and develop their roles. This should help sustain advocacy in the longer term.

What is needed?

We need to do a ‘procurement’ which means we need to buy new advocacy services. LBH require 2 individuals to be part of a project group and evaluation panel for a competitive procurement, for Advocacy.

This means that the Council will ask organisations that provide advocacy services to bid for new contracts. The Council will decide, based upon the outcome of this competitive process, which providers are best and give them the new contracts. As part of this process we want service users and carers to:

* Form part of a panel to provide input and feedback around specific aspects of the specification that providers will bid on to deliver the service.
* To be part of the same panel described above, to evaluate provider presentations, as part of the evaluation process.
* To decide upon a consensus score with other panel members, for each provider, based on the content of each presentation given.

Ideal Candidate:

We want someone who can draw on their experiences and represent the views of others who may need advocacy in an objective way. That means being able to:

* Focus on how your experiences can be used to improve services
* Base decisions on what is presented and the answers to your questions
* Be objective; so score based on what has been written or on what people are saying, not taking into account any previous thoughts or issues you might have
* Be someone who is able to speak up and ask questions and happy to be on an interview panel with others to work towards finding the right service.

Please note that the Council cannot consider any individuals that have relationships with bidding Providers [e.g. if you are a member of an advocacy organisation] and as such, will be asked to sign a Conflict of Interest Declaration, before taking part in this.

When

The panel will meet for a briefing on Thursday 1st June 2017 at HSC, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY [time to be confirmed]

The bidder presentations are due to take place between Monday 17th July and Wednesday 19th July. [Specific date & time to be confirmed]

Please make us aware of any access or any support needs you may need to take part.

If you are interested in this please contact: ASCEngagement@hackney.gov.uk