**Help shape London mental health services at a strategic level**

**Volunteer opportunity: Service user and Carer Representative**

**London Adult Mental Health Transformation Programme**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role title:** Service user/ carer representative  | **Reporting to:** Mental Health User Involvement Coordinator |
| **Commitment:** Minimum 6 months | **Hours:** Varied  |
| **Expenses:** Travel expenses to meetings will be covered, in line with NHS England policy. | **Closing date:** Please return the application as soon as possible or by 17/09/18. Someone from The Advocacy Project will contact you to confirm that they have received your application. |
| **DBS:** People that take part in meetings and workshops will be required to complete a DBS application. | **Interview:** Those that meet the criteria will be invited for an informal interview.  |

**The Advocacy Project**

The Advocacy Project helps the most marginalised and vulnerable people living in London make effective choices about what happens in their lives, while helping them shape the services we all need. We want to make sure that people across all age groups – young people, adults and older people, and across all care groups – including learning disability, mental health, older people and dual diagnosis, can:

• Voice their concerns and issues

• Clearly understand their rights

• Make effective choices about what happens to their lives

We do so through advocacy services that provides objective support for individuals and their loved ones, and user involvement projects that help service providers improve their performance. Find out more about us at [www.advocacyproject.org.uk](http://www.advocacyproject.org.uk).

**Role purpose**

The London Adult Mental Health Transformation Programme is looking for passionate service users and carers across London to represent the service user and carer voice at workstream meetings.

The Adult Mental Health Transformation Programme has six workstreams, these are; increasing access to psychological therapies (IAPT), digital IAPT, early intervention in psychosis, MH in Integrated Care Systems, London Mental Health Transformation Board and perinatal mental health (from April 2019). What these workstreams do can be explained in more detail in person or over the phone. There will be two representatives recruited per workstream.

The workstreams are varied in their scope and purpose, but most have a role in interpreting national guidance, developing London-wide recommendations and resources, and providing information and advice to commissioners and providers. Service user and carer representatives will be working on the workstreams alongside NHS professionals from across London.

As well as recruiting individuals to sit on workstreams, The Advocacy Project are looking for people who would like to comment on NHS papers and plans that can be taken to meetings by service user and carer representatives.

**Key responsibilities**

Service user and carer input may include but is not limited to:

* Participation in meetings (clinical reference groups/ projects) to inform and shape workstream activities and outputs
* Comment on workstream documents/work and support responses to enquiries
* Events – facilitating and speaking at workshops or meetings
* Co-production – working alongside professionals to deliver specific pieces of work.

**Person specification**

People who:

* have lived experience of mental health issues or people who have cared for someone living with mental health issues
* are passionate about shaping and influencing mental health services
* have experience of constructive involvement and influencing at meetings or committees
* can represent the views of other service users and carers as well as their own
* work well in a team
* can review and comment on papers ahead of meetings
* have an interest or experience in one of the six workstreams listed above

**What we can offer you**

* a member of staff to support you in your role
* training to carry out the role
* skills and experience that will offer a genuine pathway to employment or further volunteering
* a DBS check
* references

**How to apply**

Please send the completed application form and equal opportunities form to hr@advocacyproject.org.uk or the address below as soon as possible.

Abigail Seckley

The Advocacy Project

73 St Charles Square

London

W10 6EJ

For more information about the role or to request a paper application form, please call **020 3960 7910**.

If you cannot commit to attending meetings but would like to be involved by contributing your views, please contact Bonnie Studd at bonnie@advocacyproject.org.uk or on **020 3960 7910.**