

PEER DEAF MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE JOB DESCRIPTION

BSMHD run internationally recognised Mental Health First Aid courses in Wales for the wider Deaf community.

This training teaches people how to recognise signs and symptoms of mental health problems and how to respond.

This training is vital to help stop mental health issues starting or getting worse in deaf people. How? by supporting their mental wellbeing and building a supportive community. We believe, giving deaf people a better understanding of mental health means less stigma/discrimination so helps support social inclusion and recovery.

After doing MHFA training, BSMHD will appoint **Peer Deaf Mental Health Advocates** (PDMHA) to support Deaf people who may be vulnerable, or already have, a diagnosis of mental health issues.

- Must be Deaf
- Been on the MHFA Wales Course.
- Attend basic training in Advocacy and Mental Health Advocacy if you are selected.

The **primary purpose** of the role is as an ambassador supporting vulnerable Deaf people to improve their mental health and signposting them to appropriate professional services to aid recovery. One of the **most important** roles is to raise awareness of what services are available - and the gaps in services that are needed

Main duties may include;

- 1) dealing with deaf client referrals of clients from local voluntary organisations, MHFA Wales etc
- 2) to represent the needs and rights of Deaf clients informally to professionals who are involved with their health and wellbeing
- 3) to work with deaf clients to understand their issues and work to resolve and get the best possible outcome e.g. IAPT.
- 4) to signpost and encourage clients to access appropriate specialist services
- 5) to work independently within health & safety, & lone working procedures
- 6) to attend training as required
- 7) to work alongside and undertake any duties as required by the local organisation
- 8) to submit monthly progress reports to the BSMHD General Secretary and the local partner organisation

Desirable Criteria include;

- Knowledge of the issues that affect Deaf people
- Commitment to empowering Deaf people to have life choices
- Experience of working with Deaf people
- Knowledge of mental health legislation

- Knowledge of local mental health services
- Good Deaf communication skills
- Good negotiating & problem solving skills
- Time & commitment to travel in Wales (within 3 areas – South, Mid and North)
- Commitment to confidentiality
- IT skills (Word processing, Databases, On Line video, Internet & E-mail)
- Good self time and commitment management
- Positive and friendly attitude
- Training in any of the Holistic Wellbeing sectors, counselling, CBT etc.
- Commitment to additional training
- Experience of working in the voluntary sector (paid or voluntary)

Disclosure & Barring Service Check:

The successful candidates will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check

Other requirements

The successful candidates will be required to:

- 1) Drive their own car or be able to access public transport
- 2) Work flexible hours including evenings and weekends.

Line management: Peer Deaf Mental Health Advocates will be managed and supervised by BSMHD and one of the project partners (principally the BDA).

Hours: Around 16 hours per month, with a great deal of flexibility, this will be discussed at interview.

The posts are funded until the end of the grant period in December 2019.

Salary: Freelance posts, hourly fees are negotiable.

Travel: The nature of the job will require travel across areas of Wales. The most cost effective and accessible travelling expenses will be paid for travel incurred in the course of duty.

These posts are funded by The Big Lottery in Wales (Cronfa Loteri Fawr).

