

Volunteer Role Description

Your volunteer role description provides you with an outline of your role and the tasks you will complete when volunteering.

Whatever your role, or however much time you donate, you will be helping to improve the lives of people severely affected by mental illness. We appreciate and value your commitment to volunteering with Rethink Mental Illness.

My role title:

Volunteer Advocate

Role details

Where my role is based

London Boroughs of Camden and Islington. Based from home and required to travel

Who I am supported by

Community Partnerships Manager

The DBS check for my role

Enhanced DBS with Children Barred check, adults and child workforce

Service details

The service I support

Camden and Islington Integrated Advocacy Service

The location of the service

Camden and Islington

The days and times volunteering is available

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

The service code

6634

The purpose of my role

The purpose of the volunteer advocate role is to deliver non statutory advocacy to service users in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington. It is anticipated that the majority of service users will have a learning disability or autism so some experience or desire to support people with these disabilities is an advantage. We actively encourage people with lived experience and people who may have had professional experience working with vulnerable groups and are looking to give something back to the community.

Camden and Islington are two diverse London Boroughs, and we seek volunteers who reflect the diversity of these communities.

The service I support

Our service works with vulnerable people across the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington to provide a one-to-one advocacy service. You will raise the voice of the vulnerable to ensure that their views are taken into account in decisions being made about them and for them.

I will complete the following tasks

- I will support service users across the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington to provide a non-statutory advocacy service to vulnerable service users
- I will ensure that vulnerable people have a voice and are heard
- I will promote the independence of the service and support service users to ensure that they are at the heart of the advocacy relationship
- I will take part in regular volunteer support sessions
- I will take part in Supervision on a monthly basis
- I will commit to at least a half day each week
- I will carry a caseload of 4-5 cases at any one time

I have the necessary skills, experience, and attitude

I have the essentials covered:

- I will bring experience of working with, or desire to support, vulnerable groups
- I have empathy and commitment to promoting the voice of the vulnerable
- I have experience or knowledge of mental health and social care issues
- I have good written and communication skills
- I have the ability to carry out tasks independently
- I can empathise with others

Although it's not essential, I may also have:

- Experience of working with people with learning disabilities and Autism
- Ability to use alternative forms of communication such as Makaton, Easy Read, Picture communications, Objects of reference.



You'll have our support and guidance, every step of the way

What I value and how I will behave

I can demonstrate and apply Rethink Mental Illness values:

Commitment - We work tirelessly to provide support for everyone severely affected by mental illness.

Equity - We believe that in a world where discrimination and disadvantage exist treating people with equity is critical to ensure justice and fairness for all.

Expertise - We constantly use our expertise to provide practical and personal support for people who are severely affected by mental illness.

Hope - We offer hope of a better quality of life for all those severely affected by mental illness.

Openness - We are open and transparent in all our work with beneficiaries, supporters, partners and the public to achieve change for people severely affected by mental illness.

Passion - We are passionate about leading the way to a better quality of life for everyone severely affected by mental illness.

Understanding - People who are severely affected by mental illness are at the heart of everything we do in our organisation – our membership, our governance and our workforce.

I can demonstrate and apply RethinkCARES behaviours of:



Connect



We work together, we celebrate together

Accountable



We do what we say we will do

Respect



We believe everyone counts

Evolve



We challenge, we listen, we change

Success



We deliver results

What training and support will I receive?

As part of my induction, I will complete the following e-learning modules:

- Safeguarding adults
- Data security

Depending on my role, I may also be asked to complete other training courses such as:

- Safeguarding children
- Equality and diversity
- Health and safety
- Mental health awareness

I will also have access to:

- Regular reflection sessions with my Volunteer Manager

What will I get out of it?

There are lots of benefits to volunteering. Here are just a few:



Develop my existing skills or learn new ones



Enhance my CV and boost my employability



Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses



Impact positively on my own mental health, as well as others



Meet new people and increase my self-confidence



Find a passion and maybe a step towards a new career



Access to internal vacancies



Access to Rethinks Volunteer Assistance Programme



Gain a reference from Rethink Mental Illness