

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Bridge Collective CIC: **Community Development Worker - Experts by Experience**

This post is funded for 17 months by a grant from the Allen Lane Foundation. The Bridge Collective as a whole relies on funding from Devon County Council, agreed on an annual basis. A contract will be guaranteed until the end of the financial year subject to review.

Base/Location: King Street, Exeter/ this role includes public transport travel to venues over Devon.

Responsible for: with existing co-facilitator, developing the use of speaking about personal experience of mental health issues as a vehicle for our Bridge Collective mission:

To be a company whose members are creating: A democratic community where people who have experiences, beliefs, and feelings that have sometimes been labelled as mental illness are welcomed and can talk about these experiences freely, safely and without judgement; a place to participate in friendship, support, learning, teaching, discussion, being active, and making a valid contribution both within the collective and the wider community.

Accountable to: The Bridge Collective monthly Community Meeting.

The Bridge Collective delegates responsibility and allocates work to employees through discussion and agreement at the monthly community meeting open to all. Employees are part of the collective and have an equal part in the process of agreeing work to be done. Understanding of and commitment to collective working and consensus decision making is essential to this role.

Responsible for: the premises and activities on the premises.

The Bridge Collective has no central administrator/manager. (How the Bridge Collective Works attached). Responsibility for activities on the premises is held by the key-holders. This post will require you to be a key-holder. (Keyholder Responsibilities attached).

Liaison with: Experts by Experience team, existing co-facilitator, community development team, the Bridge Collective community, local health and community projects, mental health services and universities.

Community development worker - Experts by Experience

Developing opportunities for speaking about personal experience of mental health issues - bringing people together to build community and make things happen together.

Developing opportunities for peer-led team work. We will be looking for someone with proven experience in facilitation, coordinating a team, team building, sharing personal experience of mental health issues and in sharing enthusiasm for discussion and dialogue in community projects.

The Community development worker – Experts by Experience role will include:
Planning, attending and co-ordinating groups, meetings, events and workshops, both at the Bridge Collective and in venues over Devon.
Co-facilitating collective development of the Experts by Experience project.
Building links between Experts by Experience and the wider collective.
Self reflection, independent working and self-starting.
Developing other opportunities for discussion and dialogue within the Bridge Collective.
Contributing to Bridge Collective events in the wider community. Utilising discussion and dialogue activities to help collective processes.
Project administration, virtual team working, equipment maintenance, health and safety, safeguarding and diversity awareness. Take part in annual evaluation of work for use in planning, for our funders, and to help with future funding bids. Contribute a report towards our annual report. Develop sustainable plans to carry Experts by Experience at the Bridge into the future. Being part of a mutually supportive part-time Community Development Team within the Bridge Collective.

The Community Development Workers - Experts by Experience are expected to attend the following meetings in proportion to their hours and the needs of their work. Currently the following is in place at the Bridge: bi-monthly group supervision for facilitators (facilitated by an external facilitator); quarterly Open Reflection sessions (facilitated by an external facilitator) for the Bridge Community to review, reflect and plan; monthly Community Meetings – these are the overall decision-making meetings at the Bridge and all participants in the collective are invited to contribute; monthly employee team meetings for the Community Development Workers to work out the practicalities of working together as a part-time team, sharing of workload, mutual support and information.

Hours: 9 hours per week.

Experts by Experience work currently takes place on variable week days depending on workshop timetabling. Experts by Experience meetings are the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month 11am-1pm. Community meetings: monthly 1-3 pm on the second Thursday of the month. Employee team meetings: currently 10.30am-12 midday on the first Wednesday of the month. Supervision: bimonthly 1-3pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Other meetings, training and events occur on different days. Essential training will take place on variable days in October.

Pay: £10.30 per hour

Holidays: 7 weeks pro rata

Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required.