

Creation of an online resource to provide information and education on cancer for people with serious mental illness

Expert by Experience Role Description & Application Form

Project objective:

People with severe mental illness (SMI) are more likely than the general population to suffer poor cancer outcomes. Tragically, this includes a risk of premature death that is more than double that of the general population.

We believe that giving people with severe mental illnesses the right support and information, we can improve cancer outcomes. This project will aim to create an online resource helping more people with SMI complete cancer screening and, if diagnosed, access the right cancer care for their needs.

Initially the project will focus on helping people with SMI in south east London, although we hope it might be used across London and the rest of the country if successful.

Who we are:

South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) and the Health Innovation Network (HIN) have worked in partnership for many years, with a shared dedication to researching and supporting healthcare providers locally and nationally to improve public health. The partnership highly values the guidance and opinions of Experts by Experience (people who have lived experience of a condition or service) to ensure that healthcare planning, delivery, and policy meets the needs of local people and those who use services.

This project is looking to recruit people with experience of serious mental illness (SMI) and cancer. We are looking for several Experts by

Experience to join the project. This is a paid role for four months initially.

Main responsibilities & level of commitment:

The role will require you to represent the wider service user and carer population through participation in a series of Expert Advisory Group meetings.

The Expert Advisory Group meeting will occur every three weeks (dates to be confirmed) between late August and December 2023. The Expert Advisory Group meetings are where the experts by experience, SLaM, King's College London (KCL), the HIN, Service and Clinical Leads come together to discuss the development of the online resources. These meetings will also be attended by clinicians, clinical leads, researchers, academics, and voluntary sector representatives. Your role will be to share learning and insights, join conversations and influence the shape and direction of the online resources. At these meetings you will be able to share your views and experiences to contribute to the design and development of the final resources.

The time commitment is anticipated to be **12 hours in total across the 4-month period**. This will include the meetings you have to attend and the pre-reading that may be required.

The project highly values the sharing of any learning and good practice.

NOTE: All involved in the Expert Advisory Group are reminded of the need for sensitivity to confidential aspects of the role. You may hear personal stories or have access to documents that have not been approved for distribution. Equally, anything personal you share will remain confidential within the project team unless it makes us concerned that you or someone else is at serious risk of harm, in which case we may need to pass this onto someone else. We would discuss this with you first. The Health Innovation Network have an induction pack available to support the maintenance of confidentiality.

Who we are looking for:

Ideally, Experts by Experience will:

- Have personal experience of managing a long-term mental health condition and being diagnosed and treated for cancer.
- Be able to communicate with a range of people including other service users and carers.
- Be able to use and have access to a computer and the internet, to review documents online / attend meetings etc.
- Have experience of expressing themselves in meetings or the ability to learn to do this.
- Be willing to engage positively and to challenge where necessary.
- Be willing to learn and develop and to seek advice if they come across issues they do not understand.
- Commit to attend the meetings listed above over the four-month period between August and December 2023 (NOTE: We recognise that you may not be able to attend all the meetings. If you are not able to attend a meeting, then it is expected that you will meet with the project leads to catch up at another time).
- Be responsible for their own wellbeing and to recognise if they need to step back or ask for support.
- Know what support is available to them in their region, via voluntary organisation or community services to support them if any information disclosed during the project is triggering.

Support:

The SLaM Recovery College team will be available should you have any worries, concerns or comments whilst undertaking this role. This could be around the role itself, the organisation of tasks or regarding a change in personal circumstances.

The HIN will support Experts by Experience to develop skills as the project progresses. We very much look forward to learning from you too.

What equipment will I need to participate?

Access to Wi-Fi / broadband connection is required, along with access to a laptop / PC / tablet / phone to join virtual meetings and read and comment on papers.

The partnership will conduct a mixture of a face-to-face workshops and virtual meetings (MS Teams).

Will I need to travel?

Some workshops and meetings may be held in person (programme to be confirmed) however adaptations can be made if this is not possible.

Potential venues are listed below:

- HIN offices in Waterloo (Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU)
- South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AZ

Will I be paid?

The Health Innovation Network will pay you £15 per hour for your involvement in line with the Health Innovation Network's Service User and Public Engagement Payment Policy. On top of the hourly rate, the Health Innovation Network will offer to pay an additional £15 a month to cover the cost of Wi-Fi, phone charges, and broadband.

If you are requested to travel to London from other regions of the country, the Health Innovation Network will subsidise your travel expenses. Travel within London will also be reimbursed. Proof of travel costs such as a receipt or bank statement will be required.

You will be paid via bank transfer on a weekly or monthly basis, or after each meeting. If you are unable to be paid via bank transfer for any reason, please let us know and we can explore alternative options.

Want to apply?

Please fill in the Expression of Interest Form on the follow page and return it to andrew.scott-lee1@nhs.net by **Friday 18th August 2023 at 5pm**. Please note that Andrew is on leave until 13/08 and will respond to enquiries from that date.

You will be contacted regardless of whether you are successful or not with detailed feedback via email and / or telephone. If we receive high volumes of Expression of Interest forms, we will host an informal meeting with you to discuss the role, your skills/experiences, and the cancer and SMI e-learning module. If you are successful following the informal meeting, we will contact you to offer a position on this project. If you are not selected to be part of the steering group, there will also be opportunities to join workshops and user testing phases, as well as join the mailing list for future involvement opportunities.

Questions?

If you have any questions or want to know more, please email andrew.scott-lee1@nhs.net