



PEER MENTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

A Peer Mentor is a volunteer who has experienced similar challenges and experiences as the person they are supporting. Being a peer mentor is seen as a positive way to progress towards education, work, or employment.

Volunteers who take on peer support roles can feel empowered, have greater confidence and a more positive sense of identity.

Could you provide an authentic voice that our clients can relate to?

- Do you have 1-2 hours a week to support a client?
- Can you inspire others, give them hope through self-disclosure and by being an example of recovery?
- Build relationships based on trust, acceptance, understanding and an empathy from a shared lived experience?
- Can we rely on you to tap into your own experiences to help us identify barriers and gaps in our services and how we can be improving and identify good practice?

If you can answer 'yes' to these questions, then we would love to hear from you!

Key Responsibilities:

- Inspiring service users by using your own life experiences and by being a positive role model
- Providing a safe sounding space, listen in a non-judgemental way
- Helping to improve wellbeing, confidence, and independence by exploring activities that promote this
- Assist service users to engage with formalised support
- Attend appropriate training and development opportunities as required

Skills Required:

- Strong communication skills, including active listening skills
- Enthusiasm and an interest in encouraging service users to be proactive in their recovery
- Ability to work as a team seeking support and advice from the peer mentor and volunteer team as required
- Be reliable and committed with your clients and meetings
- To appreciate the need for confidentiality and to be able to protect people's privacy
- To maintain personal boundaries

Who can apply?

If you have experience of using housing support, homelessness or mental health services then we would love to hear from you! Ideally you have faced some of the issues our clients face and found your way forward.

Peer Mentor recruitment and training:

- After receiving your application form, our Peer Mentoring Coordinator will arrange to meet with you to discuss the role and to answer any questions you may have.
- We will ask for two references and apply for an enhanced DBS check for you.
- Full training will be provided and will take place across a two-day period

LOCATIONS: Milton Keynes or Oxford