



JOB DESCRIPTION

Role:	Community Peer Navigator (3 posts)
Location:	Cumbria and the North West
Responsible to:	Senior Programme Manager (North West)
Objective:	To support and mentor service users in abstinence based recovery from drug and alcohol issues returning to Cumbria from prisons across the North West (including HMP Haverigg) ensuring that they receive support to maintain recovery. The project will also support the development of a recovery peer network/community across Cumbria
Salary:	Up to £17,000 depending on experience
Holiday:	25 days per annum plus public holidays
Probationary period:	The post is subject to a six months' probationary period

Background

Our Mission:

User Voice exists to reduce offending by presenting the voice of the most marginalised people in and around the criminal justice system to decision makers.

Why we are effective:

User Voice is a charity led and delivered by ex-offenders. This gives us the unique ability to gain the trust of, access to, and insight from offenders service users and consequently, gain access to insights within the criminal justice system.

Our impact:

User Voice delivers a powerful rehabilitation experience for offenders, better criminal justice services and institutions, and policy change that will mainstream the inclusion of the voices of service users.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The User Voice Community Peer Navigators will primarily be responsible for liaising with the User Voice Prison Peer Navigator in HMP Haverigg and other recovery

navigators across the North West prisons to develop and offer support for prisoners choosing abstinence based recovery returning to Cumbria. The main duties of this role include:

- Mapping existing mutual aid provision in the community.
- Supporting the inception and development of mutual aid provision and services in the communities to which prisoners are returning from prison.
- Care-planning individualised support for prisoners on release.
- Mentoring released prisoners who wish to access mutual aid and abstinence based services in the community.
- Liaising with substance misuse services, mutual aid groups, criminal justice services thereby enabling access to support and resettlement.
- To record work undertaken and report regularly to line manager.
- To understand health and safety good practice and implement in all areas of the role.
- To encourage anti-discriminatory behaviour and promote User Voice's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- To attend and actively participate in one to one and group supervision and team meetings.
- To take ownership of personal and professional development.
- To communicate effectively with service users, staff, outside agencies and within the team
- To work within existing safe-guarding, risk-management and professional conduct guidelines with service users, within the team and with partner agencies.

General duties

General duties include:

- To ensure that all services are delivered in accordance with the organisation's responsibilities under health and safety legislation
- To ensure the promotion of equality and diversity in all areas of User Voice's work

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

1. Ability to work effectively and constructively with service users and with external stakeholders including substance misuse services, prison and probation managers and staff.
2. Ability to act as an effective and credible advocate for User Voice's values, methods and programmes
3. Well organised with the ability to prioritise tasks effectively and meet deadlines amid a range of competing demands
4. A strong and demonstrable commitment to the aims and values of User Voice
5. A strong and demonstrable commitment to the promotion of equality and diversity.
6. Ability to engage with service users and to inspire, support and empower them on their recovery journey.

7. A clear and demonstrable awareness of mutual aid and abstinence based approaches in recovery from drug and alcohol issues.

Desirable but not essential

1. Experience of the criminal justice system as a service user and the ability and motivation to harness this experience positively.
2. Personal experience of abstinence based recovery and a strong commitment to maintaining and promoting abstinence.

User Voice welcomes applications from ex-offenders and from all sectors of the community regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or disability.

Criminal record check: This post is subject to an enhanced criminal record disclosure check as the post holder will have regular unsupervised access to young people and/or vulnerable adults. The purpose of the check is to ensure that the nature of the applicant's criminal record, considered alongside evidence of the applicant's rehabilitation, does not indicate that his or her employment in this role would put current service users at risk.