



Hammersmith and Fulham Rough Sleepers Commission Peer Researcher Recruitment Information

Role Title: Volunteer Peer Researcher

Main Functions:

- To conduct interviews with people who are homeless.
- To contribute to the design of the research.
- To be involved in the analysis of the information collected.
- To participate in an event to feedback the findings of the research to Hammersmith & Fulham local Authority

What is Peer Research?

Peer Research is conducted by people with lived experience of the issue that is being explored. Peer Researchers are trained to develop research skills and work alongside professional researchers using personal experience to shape the way research is conducted.

We are looking for a team of 2 volunteer peer-researchers who can undertake interviews with people who have experienced rough sleeping in Hammersmith & Fulham. This is a short term project running through May & June in which you will visit homelessness services in Hammersmith and Fulham to conduct one-to-one and group interviews with people who have slept rough in the borough. Peer Researchers must fully complete the 2 day training with Groundswell held at the Groundswell office in Vauxhall.

What will I be researching?

Hammersmith and Fulham council have set up a Commission on Rough Sleeping to get a better understanding of how services in the borough are working and what could be done better. As part of this work, Groundswell have been asked to explore the experiences of people who are currently or have recently slept rough in the borough. Official statistics suggest that there has been a 50% increase in rough sleeping in Hammersmith and Fulham since 2014. You'll be using your experience of homelessness to understand why this is happening. We'll be looking at the reasons for rough sleeping in Hammersmith and Fulham, how homelessness services are working to address rough sleeping and what improvements could be made to end rough sleeping.

By conducting interviews with people with recent experience of rough sleeping we will try to better understand the realities of this in Hammersmith and Fulham. This work will be used to help shape service delivery to reduce rough sleeping in the borough.

Who are Groundswell?

Groundswell is a registered charity that exists to enable homeless people to take more control of their lives, have a greater influence on services and to play a fuller role in our community.

Our work is based on a set of core beliefs that see homeless people at the heart of solutions to tackling homelessness. All of our work is led by and delivered by people who have been homeless themselves.

Is this project for me?

Qualities of a peer researcher

The ideal peer researcher will:

- Be a **good listener** who is interested in others and their opinions.
- Be **confident** to speak about other people's experiences.
- Treat others in a **non-judgemental** way and with **respect**.
- Be **committed and reliable**.
- Understand the importance of **boundaries and be comfortable to ask for support** when needed.
- Keen to **learn new skills**.

Skills and experience needed in a Peer Researcher

The ideal peer researcher will:

- Have **good literacy skills** and be comfortable taking notes
- Practice good **time keeping**.
- Have good **verbal communication** skills.
- Be **secure in recovery** if relevant.

What do I get in return?

Participating in this project will give you the opportunity to:

- **Learn new skills and gain experience**.
- Create **new understandings about rough sleeping** in Hammersmith and Fulham which can use to improve the situation for people on the streets.
- **Get to know Groundswell's work** (especially if you are interested in becoming a Homeless Health Peer Advocate).

Time commitment

- **The project will last 6 weeks**, there will be opportunities for continued involvement following this.
- Two days of training to be held at the Groundswell Office in Vauxhall on the **5th & 8th May**.
- **We would ask that you can be available for three days per week during May**. Visits to homelessness services are likely to last half days and will include travel by public transport. Research visits will be arranged depending on your availability.
- Follow-up meetings will be held when the field work is complete to review findings and feed in to the final report.
- All travel costs and other expenses involved in the project will be covered by Groundswell.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Researcher on the *Hammersmith and Fulham Rough Sleeping Commission* project please fill in the form on the next page answering the following questions:

- Why you are interested in the role?
- What experience do you have that makes you suitable for the role?
- The name of a person who can give you a reference (a support worker etc)

Please email the letter of interest to Martin Burrows at martin.burrows@groundswell.org.uk we will then give you a call to have a quick chat about the project.

The deadline for applications is midday on Tuesday 2nd May.

If you have any questions about the role please contact Martin Burrows on 03000 039 600.



**Hammersmith and Fulham
Rough Sleepers Commission
Application Form**

Your Name:	
Contact number:	
Why you are interested in the role of Peer Researcher?	
What experience do you have that makes you suitable for the role?	
Name of Referee:	
Contact details of Referee:	