



# Groundswell's

## Homeless Health Peer Advocacy Service is Recruiting

**TRAINING WILL BEGIN WEEK  
COMMENCING 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**Want to use your life experience to make a difference?**

We need committed, enthusiastic **volunteers** with personal experience of homelessness to train to become:

**Homeless Health Peer Advocates**

### **What do HHPA Peer Advocates do?**

- Help homeless people attend health appointments.
- Work as a team to help people experiencing homelessness to get their health needs met.
- Go into hostels and day centres to talk to people and run informal sessions about health.
- Complete paperwork and take part in planning and evaluation sessions.
- There are also some opportunities to help deliver training and research on homelessness and health.



# What does Groundswell expect from Peer Advocates?

## Commitment to the work

***This is a demanding role and requires a high level of commitment. The health needs of people experiencing homelessness can be severe. Appointments must be kept and they must be kept on time.***

***If you believe you can show the level of reliability and commitment required you will be expected to:***

- Attend our 6 week training program for 3 days a week
- Volunteer for 2½ - 3 days a week, ideally for a minimum of 6 months.

## Commitment to self-development

***This opportunity is ideal for people who have had a personal experience of homelessness and would like to pursue a career in health or homelessness. Many of our volunteers have gone on to gain employment and this is a great opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the field.***

- We will need to do a police records check known as a 'DBS' or 'CRB.' We will help you with it and we consider each case individually – previous convictions are not a bar.
- It would also be useful, but not essential, if you have personal experience of receiving treatment for TB, Hep C/B or HIV or have personal experience of tackling mental health issues.
- Many of our volunteers are in recovery and previous difficulties with alcohol or substances are not a bar to volunteering. We would however recommend a period of stability in relation to drugs and alcohol of around 6 months. Please discuss this with us when you make contact.



## What you can expect from Groundswell?

These are not paid roles, but we do provide:

- Full expenses, including a weekly travel card, lunch on the days you work for us and money towards your phone costs.
- Support and supervision to help you carry out the role.
- Coaching to help you move towards employment, or further training etc.
- A progression fund that you can apply to for financial support towards training or personal development.
- The opportunity to be part of Groundswell's Volunteer Forum, to input into our future and get support from other volunteers.
- On-going training and development opportunities.

## Become a HHPA Peer Advocate!

*"I felt that there was so much I could do that other people find difficult- I wanted to harness my skills and do something different- being here I feel productive- working here I learn every day"*

*"Volunteering before was a lonely act, here I feel part and parcel of the staff – a part of an organisation to achieve a goal – that is really great"*

## What do I do next?

Due to a high level of interest in this role please complete an expression of interest form as soon as possible. (Latest by week ending 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.)

Return to Martin Murphy at: [martin@groundswell.org.uk](mailto:martin@groundswell.org.uk) If you have any difficulties emailing the form please call on the Office phone: 03000 039 600





## Groundswell Homeless Health Peer Advocacy

### Expression of Interest Form

If you would like to become a Peer Advocate then fill out this form. We just want to get a few details from you, and then we will contact you and arrange a time for you to come in and have an interview with us. If you have any questions then please ask one of the team.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Mobile number</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>	
<b>What is the best way to contact you?</b>	
<b>Why are you interested in being a Peer Advocate?</b>	

If you have any problems filling out this form please ask for help or call Groundswell on **03000 039 600** and ask for Martin