



Groundswell
Out of homelessness

Homeless Health Peer Advocacy Volunteer Recruitment

Expressions of interest must be completed and returned by Monday 14th August!

Training begins on Wednesday 30th August.

Want to use your 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"

Complete an expression of interest form as soon as possible. There is a high level of interest in this role. Return to Martin Murphy at: 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.

Name	
Address	
Mobile number	
E-mail address	
What is the best way to contact you?	

Why are you interested in being a Peer Advocate?

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