

# *From the Ground Up*

**Recruiting Now!**

**Want to use your life experience to make a difference? Groundswell and The Pavement Magazine are working together on a project called *From the Ground Up* and we need your help.**

**Apply by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

We're looking for committed, enthusiastic **volunteers** with personal experience of homelessness to train as Peer Journalists. We will provide training to help you interview others about the issues they are facing and report on them in **The Pavement** Magazine.

Your experience of the issues will help give your insight but we can give you the tools to help you best voice the problems faced by homeless people. We need volunteers to help us raise awareness and drive the changes that will make the lives of homeless people better.

Could that be you?

## **About the Project**

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### **From The Ground Up**

From the Ground Up is a collaboration between Groundswell and The Pavement Magazine and is funded by Comic Relief. Our volunteer peer journalists use their lived experience of homelessness to report on issues that matter to homeless people.

Our peer journalists are trained and supported so that they can utilise their lived experience to work with homeless people and identify the real issues affecting them.

### **Groundswell**

Groundswell is a registered charity (no. 1089987) that exists to enable homeless and vulnerable 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 around a set of core beliefs that see homeless people at the heart of solutions to tackling homelessness.

## The Pavement

The Pavement is a small UK-wide homeless charity, which publishes and distributes a free bi-monthly magazine for a homeless readership and runs a UK-wide website. Both include a unique listings service of everything those who are homeless might need to know and a unique blend of reportage, advice, cartoons and inspiring real life stories, all written with our homeless readership firmly in mind.

Currently the Pavement magazine is delivered free to over 70 day centres, projects and soup kitchens across London and Scotland; it goes straight to the hands of the homeless people who need it most: we believe information can give you the power to change your life.

### What do Peer Journalists do?

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Peer Journalists who participate in *From the Ground Up*, will research, report and write on key issues that people experiencing homelessness face. This will involve:

- Visiting homelessness services across London to learn from people experiencing homelessness about what problems are affecting them.
- Carry out interviews to investigate issues around homelessness. This might be with people experiencing homelessness, service providers or policy makers.
- Doing research on issues facing homeless people: looking for hard facts, studies and statistics.
- Contribute to articles and other content like podcasts for **The Pavement** and its website.
- You'll create change! The group will host an "Action Day" bringing together individuals and organisations to highlight the issues you have explored and create change.

### What is expected of Peer Journalists?

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- Attend 10 days training (usually on a Tuesday starting July 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 – from 11am till 3pm).
- To work well with a team. Ten people will be recruited.
- To work independently – you'll have support from **Groundswell** and **The Pavement**, but you'll get the most from this project by working for yourself and your team.
- Be reliable – we will have regular meetings as a group for training, research and planning. It's important that you can commit to attending these events.

### What you can expect?

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These are not paid roles, but we do provide:

- Support to help you carry out the role. We'll provide training in carrying out research, conducting interviews and creating stories.
- Full expenses, including travel and food expenses on the days you volunteer and money towards your phone costs.
- Access to Groundswell's Volunteer Forum to input into our future and get support from other volunteers.
- On-going training and development opportunities.
- You will gain good communication skills.

## What do I do next?

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To apply, please write a short article (about 200 words) on what you would change to improve the lives of people who are homeless.

- We are trying to find out how you express yourself so whether you choose a project, a campaign or something else, try and remember there is no right or wrong.
- Some questions to answer that might help you write this are: What is your idea? How would it make a difference? and why is it important?
- You can also use photographs or audio if this helps you to say what you want to.

Send your short article to: [Recruitment@groundswell.org.uk](mailto:Recruitment@groundswell.org.uk)

Please include the following information in your email:

- Your personal and contact details (name and mobile number).
- Why you are interested in this role.

If you have any difficulties applying, please call on the Groundswell Office and ask for Rob on 020 7725 2851.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018**. We will then contact you over the phone to talk more about the project and answer your questions. We will be running an information session on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018**.

We look forward to hearing from you!