



Volunteer Peer Researcher Recruitment Information

Volunteer Role Title: Peer Researcher

Main Functions:

- To conduct research interviews with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- To contribute to the design of the research.
- To be involved in the analysis of the information collected.

Overview: We are looking for 8 volunteers who have been homeless or have experienced being at risk of homelessness to take part in a research project. The research will explore how Newcastle City Council and homelessness services in the city involve homeless people in the way they use services. As a volunteer Peer Researcher, you will help design the research and visit services across Newcastle to speak to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness about their experiences and how they would like to be involved in reviewing and designing services.

What's this about?

As part of Newcastle City Council's Active Inclusion Newcastle partnership approach, the Council are committed to improving the participation of residents who have experience of homelessness (or the risk of homelessness) in reviewing and designing the services they access.

To determine the best ways to embed resident participation in our partnership approach, the Active Inclusion Service have commissioned Groundswell to undertake a six-month project called 'Newcastle Voices', starting in January 2019.

Who are Groundswell?

Groundswell is a registered charity that exists to enable people who are homeless to create solutions and move themselves out of homelessness – for benefit of our whole society.

Our work is based on a set of core beliefs that see homeless people at the heart of solutions to tackling homelessness. Our largest area of work is around health and homelessness through our Homeless Health Peer Advocacy Service (HHPA). We also conduct research projects that are led by people who have personal experience of homelessness.

What is Peer Research?

Peer Research is conducted by people with lived experience of the issues that are being explored, in this case homelessness or being at risk of homelessness. 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 8 volunteer peer-researchers who can undertake interviews with people who have experienced homelessness in Newcastle. This is a short-term project running through February and March 2018 in which you will visit services across Newcastle to conduct one-to-one interviews. Peer Researchers must fully complete the 2-day training with Groundswell held in Newcastle.

What will I be researching?

Peer researchers will work with Groundswell staff to design and deliver a survey with people experiencing homeless to find out how they would like to be involved in influencing decision making in the city. Peer researchers would support the design of this process and incorporate lines of enquiry that look at prevention, accommodation and support, health and wellbeing, personal progression and move on support.

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.
- Be keen to **learn new skills**.

Skills and experience needed in a Peer Researcher

The ideal peer researcher should:

- **Have experience of being homeless or being at risk of homelessness.**
- 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:

- Shape the way homelessness services are run in Newcastle.
- Learn new skills and gain experience which can add to your CV.
- Take part in training and get a certificate for taking part.
- All travel costs and other expenses involved in the project will be covered by Groundswell.

Time commitment

- The project will last a total of 6 months, although **the majority of the time you will commit will be in February and March** with opportunities for continued involvement following this.
- Two days of training to be held during the week commencing 18th February 2019
- Peer Researchers will conduct interviews across Newcastle. Visits are likely to last half days and will include travel by public transport. Research visits will be arranged depending on your availability. **We ask that you can be available for three half days per week during February and March 2019.**
- Follow-up meetings will be held when the field work is complete to review findings and feed in to the final report.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Researcher on the *Newcastle Voices* project, please fill in the application form answering the following questions:

- Why you are interested in this volunteer role?
- What experience do you have that makes you suitable for the role?

Please email (or ask a keyworker to send for you) to recruitment@groundswell.org.uk we will then give you a call to have a quick chat about the project. **The deadline for applications Friday 8th February 2019.**

If you have any questions about the role please contact Jenny McAteer on 07866 910930 or email jenny.mcateer@groundswell.org.uk

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Researcher on the Newcastle Voices project, please fill in the application form answering the following questions:

Name	
Address	
Mobile Number	
E-mail address	
What's the best way to contact you?	
What experience do you have that makes you suitable for this role?	
Why are you interested in this volunteer role?	