



Peer Support Bucks Volunteer Role Description

Title: Peer Support Group Volunteer

Responsible to: Peer Support Bucks Coordinator/Wellbeing Worker

Overall purpose of role:

- To offer support to people with mental health needs coming to Peer Support Bucks groups.
- To encourage service users to become more independent and confident in areas of their lives where support is needed.
- To welcome new members, introduce them to other members and include them in activities and conversation as appropriate.
- To work with staff to ensure that the best possible service is offered to people supported by Peer Support Bucks.
- To treat all people we support, their families and their carers with dignity and respect, so they can be open about who they are, without worrying about discrimination, and knowing they will be accepted.

Areas of responsibility:

1. To attend an initial training course.
2. To volunteer at the group regularly, to facilitate and take part in activities led by people we support.

It is important to understand that there are certain roles/responsibilities that a Volunteer must not undertake, these include:

- *Counselling and advice work*
 - *Any work that is usually done by a skilled professional, e.g. taking responsibility for someone's financial affairs.*
 - *Any physical help that may require training, e.g. moving and handling*
 - *The work of a health care professional.*
 - *Payment for drinks or food for people we support.*
3. To develop and maintain appropriate boundaries of confidentiality with staff, volunteers and people we support.

4. To attend appropriate training courses and development sessions.
5. To monitor and feedback regularly on progress, wellbeing and any concerns relating to work with people we support.
6. To give staff advance notice of any cancelled sessions or holidays.
7. To be available for regular reviews to discuss volunteering.

Desirable skills and abilities:

- Be willing to encourage and motivate people we support to become more independent, support their recovery and recognise their potential.
- Be sensitive, and able to respond, to the needs of people experiencing a range of emotional, learning and sensory difficulties.
- Be a good listener, accepting and non-judgmental.