

Involvement Volunteer: Argyll and Bute

Do you believe that people have a right to be heard?

Do you believe that people should be valued and respected?

Do you believe that people should have ownership of the services they use?

Then this is the role for you!

Role Description:

Scottish Drugs Forum are looking for a number of people across Argyll and Bute to become Involvement Volunteers for their local area.

Involvement Volunteers will support the implementation of the Involvement Strategy 'Side by Side' published by Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership in 2018. You can find the strategy here: https://www.argyllandbuteadp.info/img/AB_ADP_Involvement_Strategy_Final.pdf

Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership state that:

"People who use, or have used services, and their families know better than anyone what works – and what doesn't. Involving them brings unique insight and taps into a valuable resource that can help improve the quality of services – something that is increasingly being recognised through growing evidence. Involvement can also have a positive impact on people by boosting their skills and confidence, which can lead to other opportunities such as training and employment."

Involvement Volunteers will work locally to help to increase levels of Involvement in different services, groups, meetings and partnerships across Argyll and Bute.

Involvement Volunteers can take part in a number of different activities, including running focus groups, attending meetings, doing presentations, working alongside services and people who use services.

It is not essential however we are keen to get applications from people with personal experience of substance use and who want to use this experience to support Involvement across Argyll and Bute.

Full training and support will be provided that will give Involvement Volunteers the skills and confidence needed to carry out this role.

Involvement Volunteer Role Qualities:

Applicants for Involvement Volunteer roles are expected to possess the following qualities:

- Believing that people have the right to have their voices heard
- Good listening skills
- Non judgemental
- Motivated to learn new skills
- An interest in improving or influencing service provision
- Able to maintain a commitment to the group
- Good time keeping

What you could gain:

- Full training on what 'Involvement' is and how it can be implemented
- Other internal and external training opportunities
- Experience of supporting service development
- Attendance at a variety of events and meet lots of new people
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to improve services for people across Argyll and Bute

You will also have access to other training opportunities with SDF such as:

Naloxone, Harm Reduction, Hepatitis C, Sexual and Reproductive Health, New Psychoactive Substances, Emergency Responses and Work Force Development modules.

Volunteers may also be given the opportunity to carry out training through other organisations and to attend SDF conferences and events as a member of SDF.

What will happen next:

The recruitment process will give you an opportunity to learn more about the role and decide whether it is the type of opportunity you are looking for.

Recruitment Stages:

- 1) Speak to SDF staff for an informal chat about the role
- 2) Complete and return a short application form (we are happy to provide assistance with this).
- 3) Attend an individual or group interview
- 4) After the interview, you will be informed if you have been successful in becoming an Involvement Volunteer. If we feel that your skills and experiences would be suited more to a different role with SDF we will discuss this with you.
- 5) Induction and training

Training and support:

All our volunteers will receive a standard induction which introduces you to Scottish Drugs Forum, our values, and how we work. The induction also covers information about substance use and introduces topics such as confidentiality and boundaries.

You will then go on to undertake specific Involvement Volunteer training covering topics such as what is involvement, how to present at meetings, group work skills, listening skills, boundaries.

You will also have access to other internal and external training opportunities.

You will be given a named person in SDF who will provide you with regular support.

Expenses:

Activities related to this role will usually take place either during the day, or in the early evening, and travel may be required. SDF wants to make sure that you are not left out of pocket through volunteering with us so all reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. Travel, food costs etc. should be agreed in advance with your main contact at SDF in line with the SDF expenses policy.

Time Commitment:

This role will require regular activity, approximately one day a week. This could be more or less depending on the activity. Again, this will be flexible to your needs and availability.

This volunteer opportunity has a fixed end point of 31st March 2021. However, the SDF named person will discuss internal and external opportunities as part of the support offered to volunteers.

Location:

As an Involvement Volunteer you will be mainly active in your local area and you and your named contact will discuss how far you are willing to travel. There may also be national events or meeting that you will be invited to, this is likely to be only a few times a year. You may also be asked if you are interested in other projects in different localities, this is completely for you to decide if this is something you want to do.

For general information about volunteering with SDF please contact the Involvement and Development Officer Samantha Stewart, 0141 211 1175, samanthas@sdf.org.uk