

Remote Peer Researcher Volunteer

Do you have a lived experience of substance use and want to use this experience to help others?

Are you able and willing to work remotely to undertake training and facilitate peer research?

Then this is the role for you!

Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) and Hepatitis Scotland are looking for people with lived experience to become Remote Peer Research Volunteers.

People with a history of substance use understand the issues that those currently using substances face. We aim to involve people with lived experience in all of our work, one of the ways we do this is through our peer research. Peer research is a key area of our volunteering programme.

Peer research is research carried out by people who have a history of substance use. Service users feel more comfortable with peer researchers, as they know they are understood, and are more likely to participate in research.

Peer research can involve a number of different activities, including running focus groups, designing questionnaires, mystery shopping and interviewing service users.

SDF peer researchers are involved in every step of the research, from designing the research tools, collecting data, analysing data, to reporting on the findings to decision makers.

As a remote peer research volunteer, you will engage in volunteer activity using video calls (zoom) and by facilitating phone interviews with people who use alcohol and other drugs (and/or those engaged with addiction services).

Full training and support is provided to give you the skills and confidence needed to carry out the research role.

Remote Peer Research Volunteer Role Qualities:

Applicants for peer research roles are expected to possess the following qualities:

- A desire to help others
- Good listening skills
- Non judgemental
- Motivated to learn new skills
- Lived experience of substance use
- Affected by Hepatitis C (for those interested in volunteering with Hepatitis Scotland)
- An interest in improving or influencing service provision
- Able to maintain a commitment to the group

- Good time keeping

What you could gain during present working arrangements within the Scottish Drugs Forum

You'll be trained in peer research and gain knowledge and skills on how to design and run research projects. You will gain skills in data analysis and have opportunities to present the findings of the projects to decision makers. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to improve services for people who use substances across Scotland.

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.

Please note that at this time all training will be facilitated remotely.

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 peer research training, covering topics such as research methods, group work skills, data analysis, listening skills, boundaries, questionnaire design, interview techniques.

Volunteers will be given the opportunity to access SDF webinars and SDF uncut podcast as well as other online materials, giving you a broad knowledge of current events all over Scotland.

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

You will be given a named person in SDF/ Hepatitis Scotland who will provide you with regular support over the phone or by video call.

When the current pandemic conditions change there will be the opportunity to access training in person. This will be discussed by your named person if appropriate.

Recruitment:

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 Hepatitis Scotland/SDF staff for an informal chat over the telephone about the role
- 2) Complete and return an application form (we are happy to provide assistance with this).

- 3) Attend an individual or group interview which will be conducted online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone
- 4) After the interview, you will be informed if you have been successful in becoming a Remote Peer Research Volunteer. If we feel that your skills and experiences would be more suited to a different role within SDF we will discuss this with you (although at the moment these opportunities will be very limited).
- 5) References will be requested (please speak to Jason Wallace 07920 133710 for more information on who can be your reference).
- 6) As a remote peer research volunteer a PVG application is not necessary. However, if you would like to become a Peer Research Volunteer and engage with training and data collection face to face, then this will be mandatory.
- 7) Induction and training will all be facilitated online

Expenses:

Activities related to this role will usually take place either during the day, or in the early evening. The SDF/Hepatitis Scotland 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 and data costs etc. should be agreed in advance with your main contact at the SDF/ Hepatitis Scotland in line with the SDF expenses policy.

Time Commitment:

This role will require regular activity, approximately one day a week. This could be less during some times of the year and more during data collection periods and in the run up to deadlines for reports. Again, this will be flexible to your needs and availability.

Location:

This is a home-based opportunity. There will be no requirement to travel from your home to undertake this role. If you wish to undertake face to face training or become a face to face peer research volunteer then the distance you are willing to travel will be discussed by your named contact.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG):

As a Remote Peer Research Volunteer there is no requirement for you to undergo a PVG. This is on the basis that you will carry out all of your volunteering activity remotely (phone or video call). This includes attending volunteer training.

In the future, if you wish to become a Peer Research Volunteer with face to face engagement then you will be required to undertake a PVG. For more information about the PVG process and face to face peer research, please speak with your named contact.

For general information about volunteering with Hepatitis Scotland/SDF please contact the Senior Development Officer, Jason Wallace (07920 133710 or jason@sdf.org.uk)