Lived Experience Advisory Group – Scotland

Group member role description

Join our Lived Experience Advisory Board to help shape our work.

Principles - At Samaritans we aim to embed lived experience in all of our work. We view lived experience involvement as an essential part of delivering effective work, not a nice-to-have. It makes our services and work more relevant, accessible and effective.

Purpose - In our new 2022-2027 strategy, Samaritans committed to ensuring that the voice of people with suicidal feelings, suicide attempts, self-harm and/or bereavement by suicide is central to and shapes all our services, products, campaigns and activities.

This is an opportunity to use your lived experience to help support suicide prevention in Scotland and shape the work we do. The group will support the development of expanding lived experience involvement in our work as well as influencing the wider work of Samaritans Scotland.

Presence - Involving a diverse range of people with lived experience, is really important to us, we are looking to recruit people with differing experiences and are particularly keen to work with people less likely to be heard in suicide prevention work. E.g., People from racialised backgrounds and communities, people identifying as LGBTQI+, people with disabilities, neurodivergent people etc.

Process – Via monthly meetings you will discuss topics and areas of work identified by you and the Samaritans Scotland team. Your ideas, insight and feedback will be used to develop suicide prevention work within Scotland. There may be additional opportunities to get involved in project work and with our work across the UK and Ireland.

Impact – Through your involvement in the advisory group, you will have an impact on all aspects of our work in Scotland, including our policy and research, campaigns and communications, and service programme development, as well as ensuring people with lived experience are able to inform and influence everything we do.

Please note: People who have been barred from using our services are not eligible to apply. References will be required should you be offered the role. Your name, e-mail address and phone number will be checked to ensure you have not had access to our services withdrawn for misuse.

4Pi is a lived experience framework developed by NSUN, this role description has been written based on the included guidance - https://www.nsun.org.uk/projects/4pi-involvement-standards/
Role description (freelance)

Lived Experience Advisory Group members will work with the Head of Policy & Communications and each other to discuss issues/challenges and opportunities relevant to Samaritans Scotland and people living in Scotland.

You will be expected to attend regular online meetings, read materials sent in advance and take part in group discussions. There may be tasks to complete between meetings.

You will be passionate about suicide prevention in Scotland, have a collaborative approach and some experience using your lived experience to influence change.

This role will last 18 months with an option to extend for a further 6 months.

Essential skills & experience

1. Experience of using your Lived experience of suicidal feelings, suicide attempts, self-harm and/or bereavement by suicide to influence change/develop services/campaign
2. Ability to work constructively with in a group
3. Basic knowledge of suicide prevention support in Scotland
4. Ability to be objective and think beyond own experiences

Desirable skills & experience

6. Experience of engaging with policy at local or national level
7. Experience of taking part in Lived Experience Involvement or Lived Experience Advisory groups

Please note: You must be currently living in Scotland, able to use technology and have a basic level of English to apply and take part in this opportunity.

Time commitment: 3.5 hrs per month in total
Breakdown = 2.5 hour meeting once a month plus 1 hour pre/post meeting reading or tasks

Payment: £75 per meeting including pre/post meeting tasks
Tasks can be completed flexibly; meetings/events will be arranged at mutually agreed times. You will be required to log time spent on the project and invoice in multiples of half or full days.

You will be contracted as a freelance consultant and, if not already, will need to register as self-employed with HMRC.

Travel expenses: We currently envisage this project taking place online however if travel is required this will be by mutual agreement and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed and/or tickets purchased in advance on your behalf.

Support & training: Ongoing support will be provided by Danielle Rowley, Head of Policy & Communications. An induction meeting will be held prior to the Advisory group forming to ensure you have a good understanding of Samaritans Scotland and have an opportunity to get to know each other.
An e-learning package is available for you to complete in your own time.
You will have the opportunity to discuss your support needs 1:1 at any point.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the opportunity, please contact Danielle Rowley

Apply Now! Deadline: 9am on 16th April 2024

Shortlisting: 16th April – 19th April

If you are selected for interview we will e-mail you by: 19th April

Interviews: 29th April – 3rd May Kick off/Planning/induction meeting: 15th May – 4-6.30 pm

Please see page 3 for the questions included in the application form, these are included for reference.

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All applications must be submitted via the online form -  
https://forms.office.com/e/13zp3Uzw2p

• Why are you interested in this role?

• What skills and experience will you bring to help the group to work constructively and collaboratively? This can include any type of group work e.g. at school or work, or in a voluntary capacity.

• Please give examples of when you have used these skills.

• Are there any suicide prevention initiatives in Scotland that you are aware of?

• Please give us an example of when you have championed the views and experiences of others and explain why this is important?

• Do you have experience of engaging with policy at a local or national level or have you taken part in any lived experience opportunities in the past? If so, please tell us about your experiences.

• Are you able to use Zoom?

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