

DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICE FOR LONDON

PEER MENTOR

TASK DESCRIPTION

Title:	Peer Mentor
Location:	Bexley and Greenwich (Local applicants encouraged)
Pay:	DASL will reimburse work related travel to the value of the cheapest/most reasonable form of transport and type of ticket
Holidays:	To be negotiated
Hours:	These will be negotiated with each of the volunteers.
Responsible to:	Silver Lining Project Co-ordinator / Clinical Director

Background

Drug & Alcohol Service for London (DASL) is a community based registered charity providing alcohol and drug services to people misusing substances and those affected by the use of others.

We are looking for a pool of Peer Mentors to work with DASL in the delivery of its Older People and Alcohol Project.

This is an exciting new project which focuses on the growing area of concern: problematic drinking amongst older people.

The overall aim is to reduce levels of drinking amongst older clients, and contribute to improved physical and psychological wellbeing through a flexible and responsive person-centred approach to support.

Purpose

The role of a peer mentor is a commitment and responsibility by an individual who has gone through a process of recruitment and selection. Their work is monitored, supported and supervised within the policy framework and guidelines of the organisation.

Volunteers with DASL play a key role in supporting the service users who use our service. Volunteers are in a position of trust as they establish a one to one relationship.

In working with the service user the volunteer will provide a supportive relationship that enables the service user to build their sense of self worth, their confidence and skills. Through involvement in a wide range of activities, the volunteer may be in a position to support them to achieve their goals and move forward positively.

Tasks

The tasks undertaken by a volunteer will vary depending upon the needs of the individual they are supporting but will at all times be governed by the policies and procedures operated by DASL.

The following list provides the range of tasks and the approach to be adopted by a volunteer

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whilst working with the scheme:

- Supporting the facilitation of the weekly social and support group
- Meeting with clients individually to provide befriending and task-orientated support.
- Undertaking occasional home visits jointly with a member of staff (fully risk assessed and working jointly) to those clients unable to attend the group.
- Supporting in training/awareness raising provision to social care staff and community groups re: the issue of drinking amongst the older population.

Experience and Skills

DASL wants to promote an inclusive service that recognises the wide range of skills and experiences that volunteers can bring to the scheme that will support the development of the service users taking part in the scheme.

The volunteer person specification attached outlines the range of skills, experience and attitudes that we feel would be relevant to this post.

Essential Requirements

All potential volunteers prior to being taken on to work with the service users are required to successfully complete an initial induction. In addition, as this position involves working with vulnerable individuals volunteers will subject to an Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check.

Volunteer Mentor Person Specification

Volunteer Mentors will come from all walks of life, with a range of experiences and skills to offer. There are no specific educational qualifications required and we aim to recruit people with potential as well as those with relevant experience or qualifications. We are looking for people who will embrace the principles and values that we promote when working with service users and see something of themselves in the following person specification

Probationary Period

There will be a probationary period of 6 weeks after having been matched with service user/s followed by a review.

DASL OPERATES A NO SMOKING POLICY

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PERSON SPECIFICATION

Criteria

Measured by:

The success applicant will:

Experience & Skills

- Experience of providing support to vulnerable people
- Ability to communicate well with other people, particularly older adults
- Self awareness and ability to reflect on how situations may affect you and others
- Some experience of working on your own, relying on your own initiative and commonsense, but also understanding of when to seek support
- Interest and understanding of the issues pertinent to older adults such as loss, isolation, loneliness, significant life changes
- Ability to put your own needs and views to one side and focus on the needs of the service user
- Willingness to question own assumptions

A & I

Personal Values

- A respect for others as being of equal worth
- An ability not to impose your own values and beliefs on others
- An ability to appreciate and value the differences between people
- An ability to understand others choices and lifestyles and their right to make decisions for themselves
- A belief that we can make a difference, that no situation is hopeless and that change can take time and happen slowly

I

Organisational Issues

- Able to understand and work within the organisations boundaries and policies
- Able to work within the organisation's confidentiality policy
- Able to actively take part in training and supervision sessions
- Able to organise meetings with the service user and monitor whether these are successful
- Able to complete the record sheets for meetings with the service user
- Able to commit to half a day a week plus monthly supervision/training sessions (an additional half a day) for a minimum 3 month period

A & I

How Measured: **A:** **Application;** **I:** **Interview.**