

Establishing a network of people with lived experience of suicide and suicidal behaviour to influence policy and practice

Summary

The NSPA is an alliance of over 500 public, private and voluntary organisations and individuals in England who care about suicide prevention and are willing to take individual and collective action to reduce suicide and support those bereaved or affected by suicide.

We are planning to further develop our membership of people with lived experience by supporting a network of at least 100 people with lived experience of suicide and suicidal behaviour who will inform and influence the development of suicide prevention policy and practice, locally, regionally and nationally, through a large online panel and a smaller group of trained and supported advocates and influencers. By 'lived experience' we mean people who have experienced suicidal thoughts, people who have attempted suicide, people living with or supporting those with suicidal thoughts, and those bereaved by suicide. This can include professionals working in this field with personal experience.

We have undertaken scoping work to identify the need for and possible shape of this work, have individual members within our membership with lived experience and have an online platform in place that can be used. Our next step is to create systems for recruiting, training, engaging and supporting a diverse group, and developing systems to ensure their voice is heard and valued. We believe this work needs to be shaped and led by people with lived experience.

The NSPA is therefore requesting applications for a Programme Manager on a 4-month contract to manage setting up this programme of work, to start in July. The initial work will finish in October.

Outline of the role

Overall Aim

To develop a large and diverse network of people with lived experience of suicide and suicidal thoughts who can support and inform the work of the NSPA and its members, and influence locally and nationally, both through a large online panel and a smaller group of advocates and speakers.

Deliverables by the end of October 2020

- At least 100 people with lived experience on an online panel active and engaged
- At least 20 people with lived experience have undergone additional training to engage in strategic discussions, become speakers and advocates
- Processes established for on-going recruitment, training and support
- Longer term strategy in place

Programme Manager role

Responsibilities will include:

- Designing and developing a formal lived experience network, including a range of engagement options and pathways
- Recruiting a diverse network, representative of those most at risk of self-harm, suicide and suicidal behaviour
- Developing and implementing systems to engage, manage and support those in the network
- Delivering initial consultations and engagement with the panel and sharing these findings
- Building understanding and engagement of the network within the NSPA's membership and wider suicide prevention sector
- Project and budget management, meeting milestones and providing data for reporting back to funder
- Management and support of a training expert and other staff/consultants as needed
- Development of a longer-term strategy to ensure the programme is sustainable

Skills, knowledge and experience:

- Exceptional project management skills and ability to balance multiple priorities and deadlines
- Experience of working productively with a range of internal and external stakeholders
- Excellent communications skills across a range of media
- Experience of picking up and running with a project at speed, whilst not compromising quality of delivery
- Experience of working within the third sector, preferably in mental health or suicide prevention
- Experience of working with people with lived experience of suicide or suicidal behaviour
- Personal lived experience of self-harm or suicidal behaviour and/or experience of being a mental health service-user

The post holder will work closely with and report to the Executive Lead.

Applications

Please submit your CV and covering letter, including how you meet the skills, knowledge and experience requirements, your day rate, and time available, no later than 9.00am Monday 29th June 2020 to: Penny Fosten, Executive Lead, NSPA at p.fosten@nspa.org.uk.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Penny Fosten at p.fosten@nspa.org.uk.

Deadline: 9.00am on Monday 29th June.

Applicants will be notified by Tuesday 30th if they're invited to interview by video conference. These will be held the same week.

Ideally the post would start in early July.