

**Job Description – Advocacy Project Evaluator**

**Summary of the Rol****e**

This is a short term project evaluating a range of advocacy projects, funded by and working alongside our funders for the project, NHS England and NHS Improvement. The focus of the work will be on evaluation to produce a final report, co-authored with individuals with lived experience of learning disability or of being autistic, in March 2022.

This fixed term role oversees and evaluates a range of advocacy projects across the South West, hosted by different organisations. The advocacy projects are all aimed at people with a learning disability or autism in long-term (2 years+) mental health inpatient settings, and the purpose of this role is to:

* Provide oversight to a range of existing advocacy projects, ranging from statutory advocacy to community based advocacy
* Evaluate these advocacy projects using an evaluation framework, looking at whether they are working for inpatients and what needs to improve
* Provide light touch support to new and emerging advocacy projects for people with a learning disability or autism in long-term (2 years+) mental health inpatient settings

The scope of advocacy that will be evaluated includes:

* Life Planning and Life Planning Plus
* CTRs and CETRs
* Inpatient advocacy provided by the placing commissioner
* Advocacy options – review in light of MCA and MHA
* Children’s advocacy
* Advocacy for ethnically diverse inpatients
* Family advocacy for families of individuals in inpatient settings

This role sits within our Your Voice team (<https://www.yourvoicenetwork.org/>) who coordinate a self-advocacy network across the South West.

**Job Purpose: To provide oversight, light touch support and evaluation of a range of advocacy projects provided by organisations across the South West, working alongside NHS England and Improvement to share findings by March.**

**Reports to:** **Project Manager**

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

The duties of the role will include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Evaluate a range of advocacy projects and services across the South West, assessing whether they meet the needs of individuals with a learning disability or who are autistic, in mental health inpatient settings
2. Use a range of evaluation criteria and gather insights from individuals in these settings (including people with a learning disability, autism or profound and multiple learning disabilities); staff and unpaid/family carers.
3. Utilise an evaluation framework in collecting and analysing data
4. Report initial findings to NHS England and NHS Improvement in December, with a final report due in March.
5. Work alongside Experts by Experience with lived experience of learning disability or autism to co-author a final report
6. Liaise with and attend regular meetings with our funders, NHS England and NHS Improvement, to ensure that the evaluation is meeting project requirements, and the advocacy organisations are delivering required outcomes
7. Support new advocacy projects as they establish, ensuring that they understand best practice and the requirements of their service (these projects will be funded directly by NHS England and NHS Improvement)
8. Capture information about the work we are doing and impact throughout the project and work with the Project Manager to ensure high quality project monitoring and reporting
9. Help to keep participants and staff safe and confident in their surroundings and act on safeguarding and health and safety concerns in line with Inclusion Gloucestershire’s policies.
10. Advocating for Inclusion Gloucestershire and its projects at meetings and events and within your own appropriate networks.
11. Able to travel independently.
12. Any other duties as reasonably required.

This role requires an Enhanced DBS Check.

**Essential Skills/Experience**

**N.B. Those items marked \* will be used as shortlisting criteria for this post**

* A good understanding of a range of advocacy services including statutory advocacy, community based advocacy, life planning\*
* A good understanding of mental health inpatient settings
* Experience of analysing and evaluating data/projects in a similar field\*
* A good understanding of the needs and priorities of people with a learning disability or autism
* Good reporting writing skills and a high standard of written English\*
* Good communication skills and ability to easily build rapport with people
* Good computer literacy / internet and email skills

**Personal Characteristics**

* Experience of working with people with learning disabilities and/or autism and valuing their opinions
* Reliable and adaptable
* Effective and experienced communicator, able to engage with a range of people including individuals who are autistic or have a learning disability\*
* Inclusive, enthusiastic, positive, patient and self-disciplined
* Experienced networker, ideally with existing networks in the South West
* Trustworthy and able to handle confidential information
* Able to hit the ground running, work under pressure and work without supervision when necessary
* Able to plan, manage workload, prioritise tasks and meet deadlines

**Values and personal beliefs**

* We are a user-led organisation, driven by the social model of disability, which sees people as disabled by society rather than by their impairment or difference.
* We make sure everyone is involved and included
* We empower choice and control through peer support and place experts by experience at the centre of our delivery
* We challenge when things aren’t right and give people with disabilities a strong voice
* We treat people fairly and always behave in a way that is honest and trustworthy even when nobody is looking
* We are a caring and professional organisation who work together towards shared goals
* We work in partnership to deliver exciting new ideas and support each other, our members and our community.