

VALLEY HOUSE

PEER SUPPORT WORKER – REACH SERVICE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Responsible to:	Valley House – Director of Operations Rethink – REACH Senior Peer Support Worker
Responsible for:	N/A
Conditions of Service:	37.5 hours 26 days annual leave per annum 1 additional day's leave for every 2 years of service up to a maximum of 29 days per annum Public holidays Plus pension contribution to Valley House group personal pension scheme 12 month fixed term contract – extension possible if future funding is secured
Salary:	£24,000
Location:	Coventry and Warwickshire (office base in Coventry)

Main Purpose of Job

The role of a Peer Support Worker has been developed specifically for people who have lived experience of mental distress and are able to use their experience to offer empathy and understanding to others, inspiring hope and recovery. The Peer Support Worker will work alongside practical support networks, in order to help people feel in control of their lives and identify their individual recovery pathway.

As a Peer Support Worker, you will be part of a cross Organisational Service working with Rethink Mental Illness, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Artyfolks, Valley House, Coventry Citizens Advice and Organisations from The Cultural Inclusion Network

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- To build links with and liaise with external agencies to work together in a collaborative approach to meet the needs of the person accessing services.
- To have the individual's needs to the fore at all times, working to the recovery model to support them to work towards their identified goals.
- To share personal experiences of recovery and coping to build connection and provide support.
- To support people accessing services to identify their recovery pathway and ways in which they can achieve their own goals.

- To maintain a flexible approach to encourage engagement.
- To gain advice and support when needed with team practitioners and team managers and attend regular supervision in accordance with service policy, to ensure care and safety is maintained.
- To offer occasional input to the Recovery and Wellbeing Academy in the cocreation of course material relevant to your lived experience.
- To establish therapeutic relationships with people accessing services but within appropriate transparent boundaries and communicate in a way that respects views, aspirations, autonomy and culture.
- To be a role model and advocate recovery principles at all times through communication.
- To enable therapeutic relationships and be able to share personal experiences of recovery in a positive way, which will be safe for the individual and the post holder.
- To communicate personal and wellbeing needs to the team leaders and to access support.
- To liaise closely with other clinicians and give feedback as appropriate.
- To participate in meetings/reviews.
- To provide advice and support to carers (friends and family).
- To explain and promote the role of the Peer Support Worker, provide support to the team on their own experiences and contribute towards future roles and changes within the team and organisation going forward.
- To work closely with external agencies to provide collaborative and seamless support, encouraging people to engage with community services.
- To ensure that own/others up to date Carenotes records and activity data are maintained in accordance with local and Trust standards.
- To input data as requested.

Corporate Responsibilities:

- Adhere to all Valley House policies.
- Ensure the effective implementation of Valley House Equality and Diversity policies.
- Ensure the service user is at the heart of all service delivery and development.
- Attend all meetings and training relevant to your role.
- Act as an ambassador for Valley House.
- To carry out other duties appropriate to the post as requested by your line manager or other manager or Board member.
- **Whilst every endeavour has been made to outline all the duties and responsibilities of the post, a document such as this does not permit every item to be specified in detail.**

- **Workers should not refuse to undertake any work, which is not specified in this Job Description, but they should record any additional duties they perform and these will be taken into account when the post is reviewed.**
- **Valley House is an Equal Opportunities Employer and requires its employees to comply with all current equality policies both in terms of equal opportunity for employment and access to services.**
- **Valley House is committed to making any necessary reasonable adjustments to the job role and the working environment that would enable access to employment opportunities for disabled job applicants or continued employment for any employee who develops a disabling condition.**
- **All posts at Valley House are subject to continued funding.**
- **This job description may be subject to change by agreement from time to time to reflect the changing needs of Valley House and its funders.**

PERSON SPECIFICATION – please address this in your application.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
I will have my own lived experience of mental illness and am prepared to use this as a tool in my role, where it will be helpful to the person I am supporting, whilst maintaining strong boundaries
I have experience of providing support to people with a mental illness; either in a personal capacity or I may have experience of providing care and/or support services within another social care setting in either a paid or voluntary capacity
KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING
Knowledge and understanding of the difficulties faced by survivors of domestic abuse
Understanding and passion for the work of Valley House
Knowledge of safeguarding
SKILLS AND ABILITIES
Good IT skills
Good time management and organisational skills
Good standard of written and verbal communication skills
Ability to engage and motivate individuals to the service
Ability to maintain strong boundaries whilst sharing own personal experience
Ability to reflect on own journey
Ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with partner organisations
Ability to maintain confidentiality
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Flexible approach to working evenings and weekends as needed
Car owner

It is not essential to have the knowledge or experience below, but if you do, please include it in your application:

QCF Diploma or NVQ level 3 in Care or Certificate in Community Mental Healthcare (or working towards) or an equivalent qualification.

Knowledge of the local Coventry and Warwickshire areas.

A working knowledge of mental health and appropriate intervention methods.

Experience of delivering a peer support role in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Experience of working within or accessing support from Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise VCSE Services across Coventry and Warwickshire.