



## **Senior Mental Health Peer Support Worker**

**Salary: Band: 7, £32,061 - £36,363**

37 hours per week

**Location:** Southsea Community Cinema and Art Centre

Adults Safeguarding Roles: Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of 'adults at risk' and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board safer recruitment procedures.

This role requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at Standard/Enhanced level which will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

### **What is the role?**

Working closely with the Mental Health Peer Hub Facilitator, this role will play a vital role in promoting hope, empowerment, and personal growth through peer-led recovery activities in the community. Drawing on lived experience, you will work alongside individuals to co-create opportunities for connection, learning, and resilience, ensuring that every interaction supports self-determination and wellbeing, aligning with the local authorities and local community needs.

### **Key Responsibilities**

In this role you will lead and facilitate inclusive peer support groups and provide one to one support, drawing on personal lived experience. You will contribute to the development and implementation of peer support programmes that reflect community needs. Leading on resolving complex group dynamics or emerging risks within satellite venues, using trauma-informed approaches, escalating issues only where necessary. You will ensure that all activities are co-produced with service users to foster ownership and relevance.

The role will build and maintain strong relationships with community members, leaders and partner organisations, encouraging participation in peer support activities and gathering feedback to enhance the service. You will promote the benefits of peer support and recovery within the community and promote and identify potential satellite venues suitable for delivering groups and activities.

Your role also involves supporting the planning and organisation of community events and recovery activities, coordinating schedules, logistics and resources for meetings, workshops and training sessions. As the operational lead for satellite delivery you will ensure consistent quality, risk management and alignment with the overall Peer Hub model.



Operational responsibilities include maintaining accurate records, including attendance and feedback, whilst ensuring compliance with Health and Safety and safeguarding policies. You will support the training, supervision and development of volunteers. You will engage in trauma-informed supervision practices to support staff wellbeing and prevent burnout. You will also collect and use feedback to recommend improvements. Championing lived-experience-driven service design, proactively influence senior leaders by providing expert advice on co-production, ensuring that peer-led and trauma-informed principles shape decision-making and service development.

You will provide a leadership role, motivating and guiding group members to achieve personal and group goals whilst fostering a collaborative and inclusive group environment. In addition, you will address any challenges or conflicts that arise within peer support groups.

Day to day responsibilities involve managing the scheduling and use for space for activities including meetings, peer support groups, and community events. Ensuring the building is well maintained and advising of repairs and improvements when necessary. You will provide direct support to individuals accessing the service helping them navigate available resources, encouraging peer connection and respond to any immediate issues with empathy and professionalism. The role also requires independent work, including lone working in community venues to deliver peer support groups, in line with the Council's Lone Working Procedure and local risk assessments.

In return, as well as a supportive and collaborative work environment, we offer the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful project that supports mental health recovery in the community. The role also provides the opportunity for professional development and learning, including training in trauma-informed care and co-production methodologies.

### **Who is the person?**

You need:

1. Experience in delivering peer support or similar community-based activities.
2. Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with community members and excellent written skills. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English.
3. The ability to work independently and use your initiative.
4. Lived experience of recovery from mental emotional distress.
5. To be proactive and committed to your own recovery journey.
6. Proficiency in basic administrative tasks and record-keeping.
7. The ability to lead and motivate a group effectively.
8. Experience in facilitating co-produced initiatives and working within a trauma-informed framework.
9. To be self-motivated with the ability to work independently and as part of a team.



10. Strong organisational skills with attention to detail.
11. The ability to converse at ease with service users and professionally with stakeholders.
12. You will be empathetic with the ability to connect with individuals on a personal level and provide compassionate support.
13. Experience of collaborative working. You will be comfortable facilitating partnerships and working with diverse groups, including grassroots organisations and community leaders.
14. Flexible with the ability to adapt to an evolving service with ongoing development and growth.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).