

We are looking for volunteer peer mentors to link to HIV clinics to provide peer support, including assessing participants' needs, introducing our services, and identifying areas where support / referral is necessary. This is an important role as you will be one of the first points of contact for many people living with HIV to peer support and other HIV support services.

Location: Depend on the assigned clinic

Commitment: Approximately 3-4 hours per week for minimum 12 months (depending on the clinic, including attendance to mandatory monthly supervisions).

Reports to: Volunteer Coordinator / Project Coordinator / Clinical Staff

DBS: Enhanced DBS check

Tasks and activities:

1. Provide information and support participants to access information on a wide range of HIV related topics such as: starting treatments, U=U, telling others, pregnancy.
2. Get to know nurses, consultants and health advisors in assigned clinic and encouraging them to refer patients to mentoring services
3. Register new participants to relevant databases (clinic or Positively UK)
4. Undertake required assessments with each registered participant
5. Engage and support newly diagnosed participants, when necessary
6. Provide one to one peer support
7. Support for in-patients on hospital wards, when necessary
8. Provide drop-in support
9. Support individuals with complex needs
10. Manage referrals to internal and external resources
11. Support individuals who are not regularly engaging with services
12. Follow up with participants regularly
13. Support and co-facilitate groups or workshops in assigned clinics, as required

Person specifications:

1. To be living with HIV, open about their status and comfortable discussing it within the clinic or organisation that you are based
2. To complete Peer Mentoring Training (and optional Qualifications -OCN Level 2 Peer Mentoring and Level 2 HIV Treatment Literacy)
3. To be aware of boundaries, confidentiality, and safeguarding
4. Reliable and time sensitive
5. Interested in working with people from different backgrounds and open to different views and opinions
6. To have excellent listening and communications skills
7. To be able to assess immediate needs of the participants
8. Knowledge of external organisations and referral pathways
9. Ability to work unsupervised and deal with challenging situations
10. Emotionally resilient and be able to work with people experiencing poor mental health

11. Good computer skills (Microsoft office tools, database software and search trusted information on the internet)

Benefits offered:

1. Volunteer induction and training
2. Peer mentoring training, including OCN Level 2 Peer Mentoring and HIV Treatment Literacy qualifications
3. Additional relevant training and events to gain additional skills (eg. Mental Health First Aid)
4. Experience in NHS service delivery and clinical service operations
5. Ongoing supervision and support
6. Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses provided (in line with Covid-19 restrictions and expense policy)