

MEDIA RELEASE

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Could you act as a mental health peer support worker?

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is looking to recruit people with experience of mental health issues as dedicated peer support staff for service users.

This new role is just one of the improvements LPT is looking to introduce as part of its current transformation of mental health and learning disability services. The peer support workers will be able to use their personal experiences of mental health issues and services to bring hope to current service users and empower them to feel confident to work towards recovery and live independently where possible.

There will be one peer support worker recruited for each community mental health team towards the end of autumn 2019, as well as further roles recruited to work in other LPT mental health services. Two drop-in sessions* will be held at LPT on 3 and 7 May for anyone wanting to find out more about the peer support worker roles.

John Edwards, LPT associate director for transformation, said the involvement of peer support workers in the Trust's mental health teams will have multiple benefits.

"We can see from other mental health Trusts and published studies that peer support workers help improve service user experience of services, reduce the likelihood of admission to hospital for some and help service users to be ready for transition out of specialist services earlier," he said.

"The introduction of these key peer support roles will also enable clinicians to spend more time carrying out their clinical duties and thus providing all round better service to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland community."

Those interested will need to have completed a peer support worker training course before applying. LPT will be running free training sessions this June for those who express an interest and demonstrate they meet the criteria.

Teresa Spilsbury, LPT community development leader, said: "We are encouraging anyone interested in applying for the training to come along to one of our two drop-in sessions in May to find out more. For the course you will need to submit an

Expression of Interest (EOI) form by Monday 13 May, after which we will contact you and provide you with more information. You can [download the EOI form here](#).”

The Trust has been undergoing a Transformation Programme for the last 18 months, bringing together service users, carers, staff and stakeholders to design improvements to its mental health and learning disabilities services.

Peer support workers have been identified through the programme’s co-design work with service users, carers, and staff as essential to providing better mental health services to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland community.

***Drop-in sessions**

The drop-in sessions will take place at Wakerley Ward, Evington Centre, Leicester General Site, Gwendolen Road, Leicester, LE5 4QG at the following times:

- Friday 3 May: 8am – 4pm
- Tuesday 7th May: 8am – 12noon

Please email your completed EOI forms to Community Development Leader Teresa Spilsbury via Teresa.Spilsbury@leicspart.nhs.uk

More info

For more information about the drop-in sessions, training or becoming a peer support worker at LPT visit our [peer support webpage](#) or alternatively you can contact Teresa via the email address above or by calling 0755 749 8007.

For all media enquiries, please contact All Age Transformation Communications Manager Hollie Bone via Hollie.Bone@leicspart.nhs.uk or call 0116 2255791.

NOTES TO EDITORS

There will be peer support worker roles introduced across all LPT’s core community teams, with recruitment planned for the initial cohort to commence at the end of autumn of 2019. There will be a central support structure, ongoing supervision and specific safeguards for the health of individuals recruited into the roles.

Completion of the training, or having already completed similar training, is an essential requirement for employment as a peer support worker. The first cohort of training will be hosted by LPT and will be free to those who are successful in attaining a place on the course. This will take place in the summer prior to recruitment.

For more information on LPT’s All Age Transformation Programme and the peer support roles visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk/AllAgeTransformation

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk.

Raising Health is our registered charity (number 1057361) which raises funds to support LPT’s excellent care initiatives, equipment and innovations which go above and beyond core NHS provision, to enhance the experience of our patients, service users and staff. www.raisinghealth.org.uk
