Welcome to the McPin Foundation

Thank you for your interest in our organisation and this position as Young Person Co-Researcher for the Blueprint project.

About us

The McPin Foundation exists to transform mental health research by placing people affected by mental health problems at its centre. Each of our employees is vital to us in delivering our mission, which is to ‘champion experts by experience in research so that people’s mental health is improved in communities everywhere’.

Our Vision
A world where the value of expertise based upon experience is recognised and is at the heart of all stages of mental health research

Our Core Values
We passionately believe involving people directly affected by mental health problems improves research
We are driven to produce work of the highest quality
We are inclusive and listen to all opinions and perspectives
We collaborate with others to deliver our mission
We care about the wellbeing of everyone connected with us

About the post

The post holder will be part of a team of Young Person Co-Researchers based in England and Wales. They will be working on the Blueprint project, which is based at University of Manchester and Cardiff University. They will be supported by McPin’s London office-based Public Involvement in Research team and research teams at University of Manchester and Cardiff University. The Blueprint project is exploring services available to children and young people in England & Wales who are experiencing common mental health problems. The research aims to find out what services exist, how children, young people and their families/carers find out about and access these services, what the services actually do, whether they are any good, and whether they offer value for money. You can find out more about the Blueprint project at: https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/blueprint/
Because of the nature of this project we are seeking to appoint young people aged 18-24 with experience of living with a mental health problem.

You can find out more about us at www.mcpin.org. You can find out more about the Blueprint project at https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/blueprint/
**Job Description**

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<th><strong>Job Title:</strong></th>
<th>Young Person Co-Researcher (Blueprint Project)</th>
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| **Prepared by:** | Rachel Temple, McPin Foundation  
Claire Fraser, University of Manchester |
| **Location:** | Home based, with travel required across England and Wales |
| **Closing Date:** | Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} March 9am |
| **Interview Date:** | Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} & Thursday 26\textsuperscript{th} March |

**Terms and conditions**

Hours: 2 days of training (29\textsuperscript{th} & 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 in Birmingham), plus approximately 2 days of research activity per month between May 2020 and March 2021. There will also be the opportunity to be involved in data analysis and sharing research findings at a later stage of the project.

Salary: £14.10 per hour plus travel expenses

Employment status: Project-specific zero-hours contract  
Probationary period: 6 months  
Notice period: 4 weeks

This post will be home-based and the post holder will be required to work remotely. The post holder will need access to a computer and a reliable Internet connection. Some travelling in England and Wales will be required, including occasional visits to our London office and to University of Manchester or Cardiff University. All reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The post holder will be required to have an enhanced DBS check because they will be working with children and young people and an occupational health assessment.

**About the job**

This post is open to applicants aged 18-24 only (occupational requirement as set out in the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, part 1). The post holder will be using qualitative research methodology and training will be provided in these methods. They will have the opportunity to co-conduct research with children and young people with experience of common mental health problems, parents and/or carers and staff providing services to children and families.

The post holder will work on the Blueprint project, which is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and run jointly by University of Manchester, Cardiff University and Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS trust. The project is exploring services available to children and young people in England & Wales who are experiencing common mental health problems. The aim of the study is to identify ways to make these services more accessible and effective for those who wish to access them.

After training, the Co-Researchers will be assigned to work with either University of Manchester or Cardiff University depending on where they live. The post holder will also be required to work remotely, supported by McPin’s core research and evaluation team based in our London office and the Blueprint project lead at the University of Manchester, Claire Fraser. This is an opportunity for someone who is looking to gain
experience in conducting mental health research but also to bring existing skills including writing and relationship building. The candidate will be expected to draw on personal experiences of a young person managing mental health problems within the post. We use the term ‘peer research’ to describe this. For more information about our approach to this, please visit our website.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Work under the supervision of a senior researcher to support the Blueprint Project
- Over the next 12 months, the Co-Researchers will visit mental health services in England & Wales to work with University Researchers in carrying out interviews & focus groups with service users, parents/carers & service providers. There will also be the opportunity to be involved in data analysis and sharing the findings at a later stage of the project
- Draw on own experiences of mental health problems to inform the research, as appropriate
- Work within McPin’s principles, policies and procedures at all times

The post holder must be willing to work flexibly, where required, in order to attend mental health service site visits that will form part of the project. The key responsibilities above give a broad outline of the functions of the post. The post holder will be expected to adapt to changing circumstances in the project and undertake other duties appropriate to the grade of post as allocated by your Project Manager. The post holder will need to commit to up to 25 hours (over a 12 month period) of site visits for research data collection.

**Competencies**

A post holder who is meeting the requirements of this role will demonstrate the following competencies in their work:

**Quality**
You prioritise and organise your own workload effectively. You deliver accurate, complete and well-presented work on time. You pay appropriate attention to detail. You understand and follow McPin's professional policies, procedures and quality standards. You use initiative and get on with your own work, but know when to ask for help. You evaluate the quality of your own work. You identify and report any problems, issues or errors made with work immediately to the appropriate manager and make suggestions for improvement.

**Involving**
You build effective relationships with people affected by mental health problems and others in the course of delivering your work. With support, you involve stakeholders in projects and reflect on the impact. You make recommendations for how we improve involvement at McPin. You are able to draw on your own lived experience if appropriate.

**Inclusive**
You take into account all opinions and perspectives. You treat others with respect even when they express views that differ to your own. You challenge bias, prejudice and intolerance and bring it to the attention of a manager. You are conscious of the impact of own behaviours on others. You act in accordance with our equality and diversity policy.

**Collaborative**
You collaborate with others to deliver our mission. You encourage colleagues to participate and give them time and space in which to do so. You recognise and resolve tensions and disagreements with colleagues, seeking advice from your own manager when appropriate.

**Caring**
You show care for the wellbeing of everyone connected with us, including yourself. Where you come across any concerns regarding the wellbeing of yourself or others in the workplace you bring this to the attention of the appropriate manager.

**Leading**
You have established ways of working within your project teams. You reflect and learn from others. You have an awareness of your own preferred ways of working and your impact upon others. You make suggestions for working in better or more effective ways, which are then put into practice.

**Person Specification**

Over the years, you will have developed a lot of skills. You may have gained many of those from volunteering or from your life experiences rather than paid employment. Think about what transferable skills you have gained that would make you a valuable candidate for this post. For example, you may not have worked in research before but are a strong communicator, enjoy writing, have good listening skills and experience of building relationships with wide range of people.

**Essential = E, Desirable= D**

**Knowledge**
- Good understanding of common mental health problems in children and young people (E)
- Some understanding of research methods (D)

**Skills**
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to interact with different people, and tailor one’s approach to address people’s individual needs (E)
- Good written skills, summarising information and critical reflection (E)
- Ability to work effectively within a small team of remotely located members (E)
- Ability to manage own time, prioritise tasks and organise workload to meet deadlines (E)
- Ability to travel to project sites, including The McPin Foundation’s London offices and The University of Manchester or Cardiff University (E)
- Ability to draw on ‘expertise from experience’ in a researcher role, including experience of a young person with mental health problems (E)
- Good computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Office software (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and teleconferencing via Skype or Zoom (D)

**Experience**
- Personal experience of living with a mental health problem (E)
- Personal experience of accessing mental health services for common mental health problems (D)
- Experience of working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds (D)
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<td>- Willingness to attend 2 days research methods and research integrity training (E)</td>
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<td>- Willingness to comply with all research governance procedures, for example, General Data Protection Guidelines and ethical approval requirements related to participant consent and confidentiality (E)</td>
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