



Welcome to the McPin Foundation

Thank you for your interest in our organisation and this Peer Researcher position (WHOLE-SMI study) in the North-East of England.

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

The post holder will join a busy team at the McPin Foundation, consisting of a team of researchers working on a range of studies, a Public Involvement in Research team, a Communications team and a small Operations team. We also have a wider network of freelance and contracted researchers who work with us on specific projects around the country.

We are recruiting two peer researchers to work on a specific project based in the North-East of England, both part time –7.5 hours per week. Team base is in Durham.

You can find out more about us at www.mcpin.org.

Job Description	
Job Title: Peer Researcher	Prepared by: Vanessa Pinfold
Location: Durham University/Remote working	Closing Date: Monday January 10 th 2022 Interview Date: Week of 17 th January 2022
<p>Terms and conditions</p> <p>Hours: 7.5 hours per week – working pattern may be variable according to project demands and needs of postholder</p> <p>Salary FTE: £27,925 (pro-rata 0.2 FTE £5,585 per annum)</p> <p>Holidays 0.2 FTE: 5 days plus 8 public holidays and 3 additional days at Christmas</p> <p>Employment status: Fixed Term for 2 years</p> <p>Probationary period: 6 months</p> <p>Notice period: 8 weeks</p> <p>The post holders will be required to have enhanced DBS check. You will also need a research passport to work in the NHS which includes an Occupational Health assessment.</p>	
<p><u>About the job</u></p> <p>We are recruiting two peer researchers. Both post holders will join the WHOLE-SMI research team based at Durham University led by Dr Emily Oliver. The full name of this study is <i>WHOLE-SMI: Wellbeing and HOListic health promotion for people with Severe Mental Illness</i>. It is funded by three schools within the NIHR (National Institute of Health Research): School of Public Health Research; School of Primary Care; School of Social Care. This role will link to Vanessa Pinfold at McPin but the majority of the work will be directed by Dr Oliver and the WHOLE-SMI team.</p> <p>You will be working on a research project that aims to examine how best we can deliver physical health support to people living with severe mental illness (SMI) in the North-East (NE) of England based on learning from work already carried out in other areas. SMI is often a term used to describe schizophrenia, psychosis, and bipolar. The original project was called PRIMROSE. Working with commissioners, service users, and community providers we will explore what helps, and hinders, successful service delivery in the NE.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for someone who is looking to gain experience in conducting mental health research. They will have a good understanding of research principles, perhaps through university studies, and an interest in health and social care, particularly mental health. Candidates may wish to draw on relevant personal experiences of managing SMI within the post or supporting a relative or close friend to manage SMI.</p> <p>We use the term ‘peer research’ to describe a method that requires people to have both a background in research and experience of managing a mental health problem which they also bring into the research process. For more information about our approach to this, please visit our website.</p>	

This post will be based remotely. Some travelling in the UK will be required particularly to Durham where hot desking spaces will be available at the University.

Benefits of working at McPin include: NEST Pension scheme with 6% employer contribution, Wellbeing support and mentoring scheme, Employee Assistance Programme with Health Assured.

Key Responsibilities

- Working with the WHOLE-SMI team to support project planning and data collection across the North-East, including the engagement of stakeholders
- Help set up and run a 10-person community engagement advisory group
- Support planning and co-delivery of in-person and online workshops
- Carry out research interviews, and some qualitative analysis as required
- Contribute to writing project reports, peer review papers and McPin blogs
- Deliver presentations to the team, and to external stakeholders based on findings
- Work within relevant ethical and governance frameworks
- Contribute to a critical learning environment within the team, sharing your skills with colleagues as required and developing new ways of working
- Attend and contribute to team meetings and other organisational activities;
- Represent the McPin Foundation at seminars and meetings promoting the aims and work of the organisation in line with McPin Foundation mission, vision and values.
- Engage effectively with a range of communication tools, including Twitter, blogs, and our website
- Work within McPin's principles, policies and procedures at all times.

The key responsibilities above give a broad outline of the functions of the post. However, these must be approached in a flexible manner. The outline of responsibilities may change from time to time.

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 makes suggestions for improvement.

You build effective relationships with people affected by mental health problems



Involving

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 own lived experience if appropriate.



Inclusivity

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.



Collaboration

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 notices when colleagues are struggling or in need of help, and offer help even when this is outside the bounds of your own role and responsibilities. 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. Where you come across any concerns regarding the wellbeing of 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

E= Essential

D = Desirable

Knowledge

- Good understanding of mental health provision for people with SMI (E) and the impact of mental health problems on people's lives (E)
- Some understanding of qualitative research methodologies (D)
- Good understanding of research governance principles and be able to operate safely and ethically within required procedures (D)
- Good understanding of intersectionality and a commitment to inclusivity, equity and anti-racism principles (E)

Skills

- Good inter-personal skills and work effectively within a small team (E)
- Adept communicator – both oral and written – and be able to write clearly for different audiences, including academics, third sector organisations, policymakers, professionals and the public (E)
- Confident presenting information at meetings, answering questions and preparing short presentations to use when promoting work to external audiences (E)
- Personal commitment to own development, taking an active role in learning opportunities within role and be able to identify own learning needs (E)
- Highly organised and efficient, with the ability to manage competing priorities and work to deadlines (E)
- Must deliver work with anti-racism and inclusivity practices (E)
- Excellent computer skills, particularly in using Microsoft Office software – Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook (E)
- Relevant personal experience of Severe Mental Illness (as a service user or carer) and using mental health services (E)

Experience

- Experience of applying qualitative research methods, either as part of advanced studies or in another research context (D)
- Experience of conducting interviews or other qualitative data collection (D)
- Experience of building constructive working relationships with other people at different levels of seniority within teams (E)
- Demonstrate an ability to manage own time, prioritise tasks and organise workload to meet deadlines (E)

Qualifications

- Appropriate level of education and qualifications in order to demonstrate clear ability in skills, knowledge and competency for this post. (E)