



# Crisis Alternatives Advocate

## Touch Base Project

### Kent and Medway

## Job Description

**Post:** Crisis Alternatives Peer Supporter (Kent and Medway)  
Touch Base Project

**Salary:** £1213.21 per annum actual

**Hours:** 10 hours per month

**Reporting to:** Crisis Alternatives Coordinator

**Based:** Faversham, Kent

### Summary:

We are looking for an empathetic and creative team member, with lived experience of autism/Asperger's, to join this exciting service. The Touch Base Project supports adults living in Kent & Medway who have a diagnosis of, or are awaiting assessment for, autism/Asperger's and who are approaching a mental health crisis. Working alongside other Peer Supporters and our team of Advocates, you will design and run a wellbeing group for project members. Training and support will be provided. You will be matched by shared interests with individuals who require provision and want more regular social contact with others.

This project is funded with support from the Clinical Commissioning Group as a pilot scheme until 31/03/2022, with the possibility of extension for a further 1 or 2 years minimum.

### Training:

**We offer a comprehensive induction programme, which includes training on Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity, and Mental Health Awareness.**

**In addition, we offer a specialist training course for Peer Supporters.**

**The training course** takes 6 sessions to complete:

- **Listening skills** needed to become a Peer Supporter
- **Core values**
- How to have **meaningful communication**
- **How to support people** on a journey towards their goals and recognise the professional support available to them as a mentor
- A clear **overview of the programme** and how to take **next steps**
- **Role and responsibilities;** contracting and setting boundaries

---

**Following training, Peer Supporters will receive regular supportive supervision from the Crisis Alternatives Coordinator and Crisis Alternatives Advocates:**

- To agree a wellbeing programme which suits the needs and interests of project members.
- To complete administration as appropriate to the role.
- To discuss the requirements of the role and how support is best offered.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Run a weekly group, suitable for adults with autism/Asperger's, which promotes wellbeing through creative activities and engagement with the arts (amongst others)
- Provide 1:1 and group support to achieve positive outcomes for those who use the service
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends, when required to meet the changing needs of the members
- Ensure that all discussions and meetings are member-focussed and promote dignity and respect
- Communicate clearly with individuals and empower them to access support and become more independent
- Maintain and accurately record information in line with GDPR
- Ensure that all relevant legislation, particularly that related to Equal Opportunities and Disability Discrimination, is being consistently applied and promoted
- Ensure that the key principles of Rights, Independence, Choice, and Inclusion are upheld
- Work in line with Advocacy for All's policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the principles of equality and diversity
- Complete any other appropriate work as required within the project and skill base

## **Knowledge/experience:**

- Lived experience of autism
- Understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with mental health conditions
- Experience/understanding of supporting a range of people from different backgrounds and working with vulnerable people
- Understanding of community and social issues
- Some awareness of current relevant legislation

## **Ability:**

- To empathise with people's life experiences
- To be non-judgemental
- To manage appropriate boundaries in the advocacy relationship
- To work on own initiative to identify and access relevant information
- To work sensitively with different groups in local communities
- To demonstrate compassion and diplomacy when dealing with people at different levels
- To work out-of-hours where required, including some evenings, weekends, and bank holidays
- To travel within a wide Kent and Medway area, if required
- To use Zoom/Microsoft Teams (and other media platforms) for meetings

## **Communication:**

- Good communication, interpersonal and team building skills
- Able to write reports on sessions and 1-1 support
- Able to problem solve and seek support as required
- Use of IT and media: Zoom, live chats and teams as communication platforms for groups and individuals