

SANDWELL ADVOCACY

PERSON SPECIFICATION

INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE – Sandwell Advocacy Voice and Empowerment (S.A.V.E) Project

ESSENTIAL:

- Personal experience of advocating with someone either formally or informally, preferably with children and young people.
- Experience and understanding of issues relating to the particular health and social care needs of children and young people who may have become marginalized and socially excluded.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles underpinning the effective delivery of advocacy practice within an empowering framework.
- Ability to develop trusting and effective advocacy partnerships with children and young people that are underpinned by an adherence to promote an individual's independence, dignity and respect.
- Possessing good communication skills, the ability to listen, negotiate and promote the concept of informed choice and user involvement.
- Demonstrate ability to effectively promote and raise awareness of issues affecting children and young people experiencing poor mental health and/or behavioural issues and the work of the SAVE Project within a range of health, social care and educational settings, utilising effective presentation methods appropriate for each situation.
- Ability to promote, develop and support the delivery of Peer Advocacy provided by children and young people who have had experience of mental ill health and/or behavioural issues.
- Ability to promote and develop a User-Engagement Forum and develop additional mechanisms that incorporate positive and effective user involvement.
- Demonstrate a commitment and understanding of equality of opportunity and an ability to work in a non-judgemental, enabling way and where necessary appropriately challenge discriminatory behaviour and practices.
- Self-motivated and able to work on own initiative, organising and planning tasks, keeping to work programme and meeting set performance indicators linked to the service specification and assessed operational outcomes.

- A commitment to ensure equitable access to the SAVE Project including a willingness to operate the service during evenings, weekends and school holidays as directed by the needs of those who access the service.
- Ability to maintain positive relationships within the team, offering support to others and contributing to overall effectiveness of advocacy provision.
- Ability to maintain and respect confidentiality.
- Ability to undertake appropriate training in relation to the post and the needs of the organisation.
- Ability to travel locally (particularly when conducting advocacy visits to meet the requirements of the post), regionally and on occasions nationally to attend such events as conferences and training days.
- Experience of report writing and presentation of statistical information and provision of monitoring information for funders.
- A knowledge and understanding of procedures around safeguarding and protection of children.

DESIRABLE:

- A knowledge and understanding and experience of providing one to one issue based advocacy.
- Ability to communicate with people who use non-conventional methods of communication.
- A Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, policies and guidance relating to safeguarding and rights of children such as: Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014, No Health Without Mental health etc.
- A knowledge and experience of supporting children and young people who may be disabled, claiming asylum, excluded from school and/or have special educational needs and/or have mental health issues.
- Possess (or be willing to work towards) NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care and/or possess (or be willing to work towards) achieving the National Advocacy Qualification.
- To hold a current full driving licence and have access to a car.