

VOLUNTEER NEWS

SWAN's Quarterly Volunteer Update

Welcome to our third edition Volunteer Newsletter.

This quarter read about Whizz Kids and our young persons placement, new projects and opportunities



Latest News

How can we already be entering the final part of the year? I'm not sure where the time has gone and I'm sure many of us feel the same. However, despite the speed in which December seems to be creeping up and with it the start of a new year, we have been expanding our Volunteer Programme and it continues to go from strength to strength. We look forward to welcoming our latest round of new volunteers soon.

Whizz Kidz Placement



Jo Young, Whizz Kidz Placement

SWAN were approached by Whizz Kidz, a charity who support young wheelchair users to become confident and independent.

Part of this support is sourcing suitable work placement opportunities so that young wheelchair users can be more familiar with navigating a work place and what it's really like to work there.

Jo chose SWAN as the placement as Jo has an interest in the charity sector and in particular areas linked to health and social care. To ensure SWAN would be able to accommodate Jo safely, we carried out a number of risk assessments and were encouraged that our head office is fully accessible for wheelchair users.

Jo spent two weeks with SWAN and was inducted into the organisation following our volunteer process. Jo attended our Introduction to Advocacy Training and had opportunities to work with Supervising Advocate, Tia Western, to look at how SWAN could improve its service for younger adults.

This was Jo's feedback about the time spent with us:

"(The) Support has been great, everyone's been really welcoming and lovely!

I really enjoyed learning about the different models used in advocacy and the basic process of helping people to uphold their rights and have their views and opinions heard.

I really appreciate you giving me the opportunity to come and learn about SWAN and what being an advocate means."

Jo Young, Whizz Kidz Placement Volunteer

Jo has also passed on that advocacy could be a possible future career and hopes to spend more time with us in breaks from University. SWAN wishes Jo every success with University and we hope to welcome Jo back soon.

New Projects

Be Heard...

SWAN are excited to be launching their Self-Advocacy Programme cross all service areas. The project is known as **Be Heard**.

Be Heard is designed to empower individuals in the community and current clients to develop the skills and confidence to effectively self-advocate. Each area has a different primary focus and each project is bespoke to the client group to which it is being delivered. For example **Be Heard in South Gloucestershire** has been designed to engage with individuals with learning disabilities.

We also have a workshop programme that can be delivered to professionals in partnership organisations, so that they can support the clients they are working with to self-advocate.

'Be Heard on the Isle of Wight' is launching in early November. Other area projects are in development and the team are identifying and forming partnerships with local organisations.

To be a part of these exciting projects join one of our teams as a;

Volunteer Advocacy Coach

This role supports our Self-Advocacy Programme. Advocacy Coaches support clients through 1:1 sessions or bespoke workshops to gain confidence and the skills to self-advocate either for a one off event or as part of their personal progression.

We are looking for Volunteers who have;

- A positive attitude towards clients who have a variety of complex needs
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Experience of delivering training or workshops to groups

All our service areas are launching self-advocacy programmes. If you are interested and live in our delivery area then do get in touch. More information is available on our website www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/volunteer

If you have any questions or would like to apply for this role then contact

Anna Temblett, Volunteer Manager, via volunteer@swanadvocacy.org.uk or 07928525693

Autumn 2021 Edition

Latest News

Whizz Kidz Placement Read about Jo's placement with us.

New Projects Be Heard

Advocacy Coach Role

Advocacy Awareness Week

Current Opportunities

Community Champion

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Next Edition Bristol Services

Advocacy Awareness Week

Advocacy Awareness Week 2021 1st—7th November 2021

The theme this year is #AdvocacyinAction and NDTi want to remind people about what advocacy is, how it works best and how it has already helped people in our communities to live their lives.

Each day is themed around the Advocacy Charter.

Friday 5th November the theme is

Supporting Advocates

and the Volunteer Team were asked to obtain a volunteer statement to describe how SWAN does this.

Sophia Henry, Volunteer Advocate in South Glos, kindly summed up her thoughts on how she has been supported by SWAN.

To see what else we are posting during Advocacy Awareness Week 2021 head to:

 @SouthWestAdvocacyNetwork

 @SWANadvocacy

 @SouthWestAdvocacyNetwork

Story: Advocacy Support

#AAW21
#AdvocacyinAction



"Volunteering with SWAN has provided a great introduction to Advocacy. Despite COVID restrictions I was inducted in a timely manner, made to feel supported and encouraged to join in with many training opportunities with other friendly members of staff and volunteers.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the training that's been available to me, I felt very comfortable with my role after I received shadowing and experienced a colleague working with clients within my role. I feel empowered and am keen to encourage my clients to experience the same with my support."



Sophia Henry, Volunteer Advocate, South Gloucestershire Team



Current Opportunities

Volunteer Community Champion

This role supports the promotion of the services provided across SWAN on a local level by raising awareness of the service offerings, assisting with events, and improving engagement with the community. We are seeking individuals who are passionate about the area in which they live and would like to support SWAN in reaching and giving a voice to people across our delivery areas.

We are looking for Volunteers who have;

- Knowledge of a specific area and the services for vulnerable people
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- The motivation to ensure that our organisation can give a voice to the most vulnerable people in our service areas

Volunteer Victim Advocate

Volunteer Victim Advocates have a willingness to help others have their voices heard and support them when they are a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour. This is a varied role where you will be supporting the delivery and promotion of a diverse, inclusive and client led independent advocacy and support service. Helping people through a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

We are looking for Volunteers who

- Can show empathy towards victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Have excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Are organised, professional and reliable

You can read about other opportunities on our website www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/volunteer

Next Edition

Bristol Advocacy

SWAN have recently been awarded a contract to deliver IMHA, IMCA and Care Act advocacy in Bristol. The service will launch in January 2022. Next issue we will be exploring the Social Value elements and how volunteers can help us to extend our reach in Bristol.

If you wanted to find out more now please contact Anna Temblett, Volunteer Manager. Contact details below.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with SWAN you can check out our website at

www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/volunteer

Contact Anna Temblett, Volunteer Manager, directly via email: volunteer@swanadvocacy.org.uk Tel: 07928 525693