

Volunteer Advocacy Coach



Role Description

What is an Advocacy Coach?

The role of an Advocacy Coach is to support clients to develop the skills and confidence to self-advocate either for a one-off event or as part of the client's personal progression. Advocacy Coaches co-deliver Self-Advocacy Workshops, support peer advocacy groups and provide 1:1 advocacy coaching to clients. This ensures that clients have greater choice and control over their lives, both now and in the future.

Advocacy Coaches may also co-deliver our professionals workshops aimed at helping organisations who work with vulnerable people to give them a voice.

Supported by: **Supervising Advocate**

Role available in: **Bristol, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Somerset and South Gloucestershire**

This post is subject to satisfactory application, interview, references and DBS.

Benefits of Volunteering with SWAN

- The opportunity to develop new and existing skills and gain experience volunteering in a charity
- The opportunity to meet new people
- The opportunity to build a Personal Development Portfolio with full training and ongoing access to keep knowledge and skills up to date
- Out of pocket expenses reimbursed – mileage £0.45 per mile, Bike £0.20 per mile plus parking tickets, bus and train fares etc
- Support to progress to paid employment
- The satisfaction of knowing you are making a vital difference to the work of SWAN
- The satisfaction of empowering clients to find their own voice and tell others what they want or need
- Being part of an organisation, which has strong values and provides help and support to those most marginalised in society
- The opportunity to see clients' progress
- To be part of the education of other services in self-advocacy promotion
- Out of pocket expenses reimbursed

What will you be doing?

- Empowering people to self-advocate and make positive changes in their lives
- Provide 1:1 self-advocacy coaching to clients using our Toolkit
- Working in a team to co-deliver self-advocacy workshops for clients

- Working in a team to co-deliver bespoke advocacy awareness and self-advocacy workshops for other professionals working with vulnerable clients
- Listen to attendees' feedback and gather this through paper and online surveys
- Help to review the feedback and put this into a report to show the impact the course has had
- Attend meetings to promote the self-advocacy workshops and explain their importance for client empowerment
- Use an online database to record all travel time, and associated activities within the role as a Advocacy Coach

What type of person are we looking for?

- Positive attitude towards vulnerable clients who may have a variety of complex needs
- Available 3- 6 hours per week
- Confident to communicate both verbal and written information
- Experience of delivering training or workshops to groups is desirable
- Some experience of record keeping and report writing
- Knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding is desirable but full training is given
- IT literate

Please note that while the skills and knowledge listed are good to have, SWAN also appreciates that life experience can make you the ideal volunteer for a role such as this. We are keen to hear from people who have experienced adversity and difficulties in speaking out for themselves, who have found their voice and for whom this type of workshop would have been beneficial. If this sounds like you then do, please get in touch. We also have opportunities within this area for people who may not feel confident speaking in front of others so please don't be concerned about the workshops as this is not the only way you can contribute. The most important attribute is a drive to help others speak out on issues that are important to them.

What we need to you to do?

- Complete a 6-month Induction including mandatory training required to undertake the role
- After gaining an appropriate level of experience, to participate in relevant on-going training to keep up to date with services, procedures, guidelines, and legislation that affect the organisation and the clients who need the services
- To take individual responsibility to alert the organisation to health and safety matters, and general organisational needs and issues
- To attend regular team meetings/ briefings
- To attend 6-8 weekly supervision as outlined in the Volunteer Policy

Equality and Diversity Statement

Equality, diversity and inclusion are core to our values. In the selection of our staff and volunteers, we are committed to equality with regards to protected characteristics: age,

disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We welcome applications from people with disabilities, who are culturally diverse and who have used advocacy services. The Volunteer must ensure a positive commitment towards equality by treating others fairly and not committing any form of direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation, or harassment of any description and to promote positive working relations amongst employees, volunteers, suppliers and customers.