

Medway and Swale Community Health Researcher

Volunteer Role Description

Why do you need me?

Community Health Researchers are part of the Involving Medway programme – a partnership between Medway Voluntary Action (MVA), Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and other local community organisations.

Involving Medway is aimed at building healthier communities, and we need someone who is interested in helping improve health and care services in Medway and Swale by gathering feedback from local residents about their experiences. You will learn about research skills and carry out interviews within your community and amongst Medway and Swale residents – this will be fed into the planning of health and care services by NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group.

What activities will I be involved in?

You will be supporting the MVA team to undertake research projects for the Involving Medway programme.

Activities you are likely to undertake include:

- Attend training days and debrief sessions to learn about carrying out community based research
- Carry out interviews with local residents and people in your community
- Take notes and write up the results of interviews –working with other community health researchers to do this
- Share your ideas and feedback with the NHS in Medway and Swale

This is a good opportunity to find out about the breadth and depth of the work carried out by not-for-profit organisation in Medway and to develop your communication skills and knowledge.

What skills and abilities will I need to have?

You don't need to have specific experience in any of the above activities. We are looking for a volunteer who is reliable and who wishes to extend their skills and experience. You must be willing to follow MVA policy e.g. health and safety, equal opportunities, confidentiality and financial guidelines.

The following personal interests/skills are desired:

- Be a resident of Medway or Swale with sufficient time to give to the role
- Care about how local people experience health and care services
- Good verbal and listening skills
- An interest in learning about research skills

Training and support will be provided where required.

What training and support will I be given?

- You will be offered training in how to carry out interviews, how to listen in depth, how to ask probing questions, how to capture and write up information (next training date: 20th November 2019, 09.30-16.30, held at MVA Office 5a New Road Avenue, Chatham ME4 6BB)
- You will receive an induction and ongoing support from the MVA team
- You will be invited to attend volunteer meetings hosted by MVA and to join any relevant online volunteer groups/forums moderated by MVA.
- MVA may offer you opportunities to become involved in other activities that they deliver locally.
- This role is unpaid but we reimburse volunteers' 'out-of-pocket' expenses within agreed guidelines which should cover your travel.

How much time should I offer?

We envisage at least two days per year training and debrief and then a flexible commitment to conduct interviews with local communities – this should amount to no more than six to eight days per year.

What are the benefits of being a community health researcher with MVA?

- You can earn 'Medway Time Credits' linked to your volunteering activities
- You will be contributing to the improvement of local health and care services and learn more about health and care issues in Medway and Swale
- You will learn research skills
- You will have opportunity to meet new people
- You could gain new skills and references to add to your CV

How to Apply

Applications for this volunteering role will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and we recommend applying as soon as possible. Priority will be given to candidates who can commit to at least nine months volunteering with us.

If interested please get in touch with MVA – involvingmedway@mva.org.uk or 01634 812850.

If you require this document in an alternative format, ie easy read, large text, audio, Braille or a community language please contact Medway Voluntary Action on 01634 812850 or info@mva.org.uk