

Voluntary Community Researchers:

Improving the mental health outcomes of Nottingham's LGBT population

Applicant information

Thank you for enquiring about the community researcher role. We are looking to recruit three community researchers to this research project.

Applications are invited from people identifying as LGBT, to work on a project about improving the mental health outcomes of LGBT people in Nottingham. This will include examining whether primary and community health services in Nottingham are meeting the mental health needs of LGBT people. By primary and community health services we mean support that you have accessed from your GP, or services that you can refer yourself into, such as a talking therapy service. The focus of the research is on prevention, early diagnosis and self-care of mental health issues.

Background: This research project has been commissioned by NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and is being co-ordinated and delivered by an independent research team from the University of Leicester (Dr Rebecca Barnes, Dr Clare Gunby and Dr Tammy Ayres) and the University of Brighton (Professor Katherine Johnson). You will work alongside the research team and other stakeholders from organisations such as NHS Nottingham City CCG and Nottingham City Council.

Role: This is a voluntary post lasting for the duration of the research project (starting April 2018 and ending 31st May 2019). The time commitment will be 6-8 hours a month, on average, for the duration of the project. The role of the community researcher will include:

- Offering local knowledge and experience of the issues being discussed
- Sitting on the project steering group and contributing to discussions
- Attending certain research team meetings
- Co-facilitating focus groups and data collection. This may include attendance at Nottingham Pride
- Helping to share the findings of the research
- Other research activities related to the project e.g. creating data collection tools

Full training will be provided, alongside regular support and supervision. This is a great opportunity for you to influence policy and health service provision for LGBT people in Nottingham and to gain related research experience and skills.

Although this is a voluntary post, all travel expenses will be paid and a gift of £200 will be offered to each community researcher at the end of the project to acknowledge their time, contribution and support.

Who can become a Community Researcher?

You do not need any formal qualifications. We are looking for people who:

- Identify as LGBT
- Have lived experience of mental health services and/or psychological distress, either personally or in a care role capacity
- Have an interest in community-based research
- Have knowledge of LGBT organisations in Nottingham
- Have good communication skills and the ability to help co-facilitate group discussions with a range of LGBT people, alongside a member of the research team
- Have an understanding of the equalities agenda and the intersection of sexuality with gender identity, sex, race, ethnicity, age, disability, religious beliefs and social class
- Have a commitment to reducing health inequalities experienced by LGBT people
- Are able to work flexibly, independently and as part of a team
- Are willing to travel to different sites in Nottingham City where research activities are taking place
- Although not essential, it is desirable that you have experience working in the LGBT sector (e.g. as staff or in a voluntary capacity) and/or previous research experience

Applications: If you are interested in applying please send:

- A short CV (2 A4 pages maximum)
- A one page covering letter telling us why you would like this role and why you think you would be a good community researcher

To **Dr Rebecca Barnes**, to arrive no later than **14th March 2018** via:

Email: rb358@leicester.ac.uk



Post: 154 Upper New Walk, Department of Criminology, University of Leicester, LE1 7QA

If you have any questions about the role or your suitability than please contact Rebecca Barnes via email (rb358@leicester.ac.uk) or telephone (0116 252 5707) before applying.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an informal interview in Nottingham on **27th March 2018**.

We will apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for everyone we offer the Community Researcher role to. This may involve a visit to the University of Leicester to present photographic identification and complete related paperwork.