

Advocacy Services

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA) –Hospital
Grade: £22,965 for full time post (37.5 hours per week), pro rata for part time
Holidays: 34 days per annum pro rata, including bank holidays
Hours: 14 hours per week (mainly Monday and Tuesdays with some flexibility)
Line Manager: Advocacy Manager
Location: Based at: Mind in Bexley, Bexleyheath and in Hospital and rehab settings

Job Summary:

To develop and provide Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) to people living in the London Borough of Bexley in hospital and rehab setting. To promote self-advocacy and enable service users to make informed decisions and get their views heard in matters relating to their mental health. As part of the team, to promote the integration of independent advocacy within mental health services.

Tasks:

1. To provide Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA), as defined under the Mental Health Act 2007, to patients on acute mental health wards, rehab units, ITU's. Also to work in forensic medium and low secure units either in Bexley Borough or close surrounding areas. To provide advocacy for Bexley Residents that are subject to Community Treatment order.
2. To attend care meetings and engage with service users to provide information on mental health and community care matters, and to help service users say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the services they need.
3. To carry a caseload, promoting self-advocacy but advocating on behalf of your clients where necessary.
4. To provide information to service users on their care, psychiatric treatments, legal rights (e.g. rights under the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended 2007), making complaints, discharge or after-care planning and community services.
5. To assist service users to access appropriate statutory, voluntary and legal services (e.g. day and education services).
6. To advocate for service users within a variety of meetings relating to their care and treatment, to include ward rounds, case conferences, Care Programme Approach (CPA) meetings and mental health assessments.

7. To maintain up-to-date knowledge of mental health and community care policy, structure and legislation.
8. To work within and meet our obligations to provide independent advocacy under the Mental Health Act 2007, as well as agreed case-working standards and monitoring requirements
9. To work as a proactive member of the team and where necessary to offer support to colleagues by sharing workload on occasions when your work load may be reduced. Provide contribution to service planning and developments.
10. Where appropriate, to assist in the recruitment, selection, induction and mentoring of volunteers, and or advocacy staff.
11. To undertake additional duties, as may reasonably be required.

General

1. *To attend and participate in relevant meetings and give reports or presentations when required.*
2. *To comply with, promote and contribute to the development of Mind in Bexley*
3. *To attend appropriate internal, external training courses, supervision and staff away days.*
4. *To work as part of a team towards ensuring effective user participation within the service.*
5. *Other than where central administrative support is available, to be administratively self-servicing.*