

IMHA ADVOCACY SERVICE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA).
Hours: Full Time: 36 hours (or 2 part time posts: salary pro-rata)
Salary: £27,944 to £29,444 dependent upon experience & qualifications.
Line Manager: Advocacy Manager.
Location: Various sites in and around Bexley Borough.

Job Summary:

To provide Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) service to all qualifying inpatients residing at Bracton Medium Secure Unit, Memorial Hospital low secure unit and Woodlands Unit (acute admission wards). To promote self-advocacy and enable service users to make informed decisions and get their views heard in matters relating to their care and treatment. 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), at various sites to include the Bracton Medium Secure Unit, Memorial Hospital low secure unit and Woodlands acute admissions wards.
2. To attend hospital wards and engage with service users to provide information on mental health and community care matters. 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 clients where necessary. To understand and provide non-instructed advocacy when required.
4. To provide information to service users on inpatient care, psychiatric treatments, legal rights (e.g. consent and rights under the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended 2007), making complaints and discharge planning or after-care.
5. To provide information to service users on the roles and responsibilities of professionals working within mental health services (e.g. key nurses, consultant psychiatrists, approved social workers, psychologists and occupational therapists).
6. To assist service users to access appropriate statutory, voluntary and legal services (e.g. day and education services).

7. 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. To conduct ward-based surgeries and presentations for patients and staff to promote the service and facilitate access to the service.
9. To maintain up-to-date knowledge of mental health and community care policy, structure and legislation.
10. To develop and maintain joint working with staff from health and social care services and work in conjunction with staff to promote an awareness and understanding of user participation, empowerment and the role of advocacy, in particular the needs of service users from black and ethnic minority communities.
11. To work within and meet our obligations to provide an Independent Mental Health Advocacy service, including adherence to agreed case-working standards, monitoring systems or requirements and service goals.
12. To work as part of the team to ensure that service provision works in accordance with, and promotes the needs of black and minority ethnic service users, considering racial, cultural, religious and language diversity.
13. To work as a member of the team, contributing to service planning and developments. Where necessary to provide cover in the team.
14. Where appropriate, to assist in the recruitment, selection, induction and mentoring of volunteers, patient representatives and/or advocacy staff.
15. 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's 'Philosophies and Aims', its equal opportunities policy and all other central policies and those of the advocacy service.
3. To engage in 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. To assist with data collection, outcome management and undertake research.
6. To be administratively self-servicing.