

Peer Group Meeting – 31/3/2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: AP, JH, KT, JB

Apologies: SD, JC, SB

Agenda was handed out and AP gave an explanation about why we needed a Peer Group, what Peers would do and what support would be given to the group to help them carry out their role, help with service delivery and help them to get to the next stage of their personal journeys i.e. further learning, employment, volunteering/community activity.

JH provided group with statistics to emphasise the need for this group in the community following consultation and data collected from community, clients and council. JH informed the group about the introduction of Universal Credit and how Lasting Differences is hoping to feed into the Social Prescribing service ran by GP's.

AP described what the Peer Mentoring group would look like and its process:

- Application form
- Interview
- Induction – including review of policy and procedures
- In house training – including safeguarding, professional boundaries, confidentiality, data protection
- Issue based training - including counselling skills, domestic abuse awareness, drug and alcohol awareness, homeless awareness, health and well being awareness
- External training – including qualification based training

AP said we want Peers to own their project and be involved with the design, content and delivery of the project. AP spoke about drawing up an application with Peers looking at the wording and what questions they would want to be asked on an application and at interview. This will be explored at the next meeting.

KT raised fears of Mentoring but AP reassured him explaining that we would be with Peers throughout their delivery to clients and would not leave them on their own until they felt confident being on their own. JH and AP would initially lead the activities with Peers shadowing until their confidence grows, they feel happy taking more of a lead which naturally would allow JH and AP to be phased out.

Discussions were held around what activities we could run:

- Coffee club
- Food Kitchen
- Independent living skills workshops – cooking on a budget, basic DIY, basic car maintenance etc

Meeting closed with JB and KT expressing a keen interest in being involved with the project.

Time and date of next meeting: Friday 28th April 1pm for prompt 1.30pm start.