



## Opportunity description

### Advisory group for Mind's policy work on reform of the Mental Health Act

#### Summary

We're recruiting a lived experience advisory group of up to 12 people to help our policy work influencing Mental Health Act reform. It will start early May and is expected to continue for 9-12 months.

#### Background and purpose

The Mental Health Act is the law which says when you can be detained in hospital and receive mental health treatment without consent. We're expecting there to be a bill in parliament later this year, making changes to the Act. This is the latest stage of reform by the UK Government. It follows an independent review of the Act in 2018 and a 'white paper' consultation about the UK Government's plans in 2021.

Mind has been working on this all the way along and we've had great input from people with lived experience guiding our thinking. As we come to this new stage, we want to make sure our work to influence the changes to the law is still guided by people with lived experience. **This group is for adults based in England or Wales. Its work will be complemented by our engagement with under 18s.**

#### What the group will do

Early in the project, the group will help with our strategic thinking and priorities around influencing the bill. A top priority for us is to combat the racist impact of the Act and promote race equity.

The group may identify areas where we need to build up more evidence or, for example, run a focus group on a particular issue.

Once there is a bill in parliament, things are likely to move quite quickly, and we'll be looking to sense check decisions and briefings with you.

Therefore, we're likely to meet more at the beginning of the project and to have more email contact later. Meetings will either be online or hybrid (ie there will be the option to meet in person, in London, but you can still join online if you wish).

We would value at least some members of the group agreeing to provide a 'rapid response' – ie to feed back to requests for views and comments more quickly than would be usual.

### Essential criteria

- Lived experience of the Mental Health Act (being sectioned)
- Ability and willingness to take part in group discussions
- Ability and willingness to review documents and provide feedback
- Availability to participate in the group between May 2022 – May 2023 (please see below for more information on timeframes)

### Desirable criteria

- Race/ethnicity ‘Black or Black British’ - this opportunity is open to all people who have been sectioned, but we’re keen to include Black African, Caribbean or people of mixed Black heritage. This is because this group is disproportionately affected by the Mental Health Act and Mind is committed to combatting racism.
- Experience of being on a community treatment order (CTO) – we’re keen to include people with experience of being on a CTO as this is a priority issue for us, where we are challenging UK Government policy.
- Experience of being detained under Part 3 of the Mental Health Act, that is where you’ve been admitted to hospital via the criminal justice system. We’re keen to include people with Part 3 experience as we’re concerned that the planned reforms don’t go far enough for this group.
- Willingness to provide a ‘rapid response’, turnaround times to be agreed.

### Timeframes

We don’t know when there will be a bill in parliament, so this may change.

Closing date for applications	19 April 2022
Notice of outcome	By 26 April
First meeting	Week of 9 May
Second meeting	Week of 6 June
Email communications	Ongoing
Meeting to take stock	Between autumn 2022 and February 2023
Final meeting	By end May 2023

### Payment

- We are offering payment for involvement in this activity which works out as £100 a day. It covers meetings, preparation and other reading and commenting.

### Further information and applying to take part

- To apply, please complete the application form accompanying this information and return it by 19 April – details are on the form.
- If you have questions, please contact Alison Cobb at [a.cobb@mind.org.uk](mailto:a.cobb@mind.org.uk).