

# Peer Support & Community Group Online Monthly Forum: Opportunity Description

Working Group: Paid Opportunity May 2022

## Role and who we are looking for

- Do you use your experiences to guide and support others that share your background?
- Do you believe that people with first hand experience should be involved in developing the support that they need?
- Are you enthusiastic about community led support?

We are looking for four people to be part of a working group that will inform and shape our monthly Peer Support & Community Group Online Forum. The four people will have different life experiences, expertise, and viewpoints on community-led groups doing peer support. This includes all types of groups that come together to support each other including peer support and self-help groups, mutual aid groups, youth groups and faith-based groups.

[Please apply for this opportunity by 12 noon Monday 30th May](#)

## Context

### About the monthly Peer Support & Community Group Online Forum.

The forum was initially setup in the wake of COVID-19, bringing community groups together who had moved online. Since this time, it has been hosted by Bipolar UK, GetUp SetUp, Mind, NSUN, and Together for Mental Wellbeing. During the sessions we connect and share learning through discussions on topics which have meaning to our community support groups and are most important to us right now.

At the start of this year, we held two online workshops and launched an online survey, to open-up our thinking and discuss how the Forum might develop in 2022-23.

### What we did

Through the workshops and the survey, we asked people about the successes and challenges of the Forum so far, its need and purpose and what was else is needed for 2022-23.

We heard insights and new ideas from 36 people involved in peer support with independent peer support groups, the NHS, user-led and voluntary sector organisations, and charities. You can read our [Headline Findings here](#).



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## What next?

Over the next 6 months we want to make sure the wisdom and the richness of our discussions and what we've learned is turned into action.

## This is where you come in

As part of the working group, you will play an important role to:

- Reflect and review what we've learned so far
- Test and design different approaches to the format and delivery of the monthly Peer Support & Community Group Online Forum
- Co-design workshops / shared learning sessions or other tools that focus and build on what people have suggested so far

## What will I get out of this?

You will be paid Mind's £230 day rate. We really value new perspectives, so this is a chance for you to voice your opinion while connecting and learning from others.

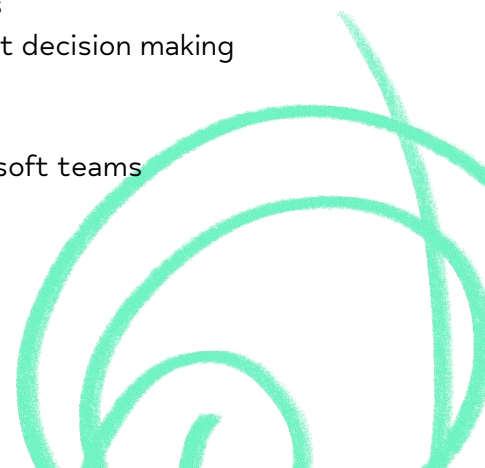
**We are aware that we don't always do well at reaching or representing everyone. We want people who can be honest, challenging us to think carefully about what and how we can do better.**

## Some of the skills and experiences we're looking for

- Experience of working on/with community-based projects. This can include voluntary work, paid work, formal, informal, online, or offline based projects.
- Experience of leading, facilitating or participating in any community group based on peer support including self-help groups, mutual aid groups, youth groups and faith-based groups.
- Experience of working with people and communities often least represented, including Black people and people of colour (BPoC), young people, LGBTQIA+ communities and people experiencing poverty.
- Ability to work collaboratively with others
- Listening to, discussing and respecting differing opinions
- Reading and reviewing documents and reports to support decision making

### Desirable but training available

Confident in using online platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft teams



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## What time commitment does the role involve?

We're flexible on what you want to get involved in and will be guided by your decisions on what needs to be prioritised. We hope you will be able to join in across these three activities as much as possible.

- **Peer Support & Community Group Online Forum:** Maximum of 2 days to attend and take an active role in the planning/ delivery/ facilitation of the current monthly forums.
- **Working Group Meetings:** Maximum of 2 days to attend at least 2 out of 4 working group meetings.
- **Co-designing additional workshops/ shared learning sessions/ other tools:** Maximum of 2 days to plan, deliver and feedback.

## Payment for your time

- You will be paid £230 per day (based on 7 hours/per day) to a maximum of 6 days in total.
- You will be paid extra for any 1 to 1 meetings that you might need for support in this role, if we have any additional tasks or if we want to work with you to develop ideas, or share feedback afterwards.
- You can choose to be paid by BACS transfer, receive vouchers or gifts in kind, such as courses or books.

## What support you can expect

- We'll meet with you 1 to 1 (online) to talk through what to expect and what to plan for. We'll use this time to ask about any access needs and if it helps share our accessibility form so you can tell us about anything you would need support with
- A member of the team will also be available for an optional wellbeing check-in whilst you're involved.
- We will also spend time together as a group to get to know each other at the start of every meeting before we dive into working mode.



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## How to apply

### Please apply for this opportunity by 12 noon Monday 30th May

We are asking people for a mix of spoken/ video recordings and written answers. Any questions you have or support you need to answer either via video or writing, email Jane via [peersupport@mind.org.uk](mailto:peersupport@mind.org.uk).

You might find it helpful to read our [Forum Headline Findings](#) and recommendations in our [Jigsaw 2](#) report before you start your application.

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (question 5 is optional).

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you are interested in this opportunity.  
**(Please answer using spoken/ video of 1- 2 minutes max)**  
Recording instructions below in 'How to send us your answers'.
2. Please tell us about the skills, including work or personal experience, that you will apply to this role.  
**(Please answer in writing in 200 words max)**
3. Please tell us about your direct connection with people and communities often least represented, including Black people and people of colour (BPoC), young people, LGBTQIA+ communities and people experiencing poverty.  
**(Please answer in writing in 200 words max)**
4. Please share contact details of someone who can support your application, including how they know you.  
If you need support to identify who is suitable for this, contact Jane via [peersupport@mind.org.uk](mailto:peersupport@mind.org.uk).
5. **Demographic questions.** If you'd like to, please complete our [anonymous demographic form here](#).  
Because we want to make sure we involve a diverse set of voices in what we do, we need to understand who we are engaging with our work, and who we need to work harder to reach. Thank you.

## How to send us your answers

- **Please send in your spoken/ video recording as follows:**
  1. Use the camera setting on your phone to do a self-video.
  2. Use the share option to email final video to [peersupport@mind.org.uk](mailto:peersupport@mind.org.uk) with 'Forum Paid Opportunity' in the email title.
- **Please send in your written answers** in an email with 'Forum Paid Opportunity' in the email title. to Jane via [peersupport@mind.org.uk](mailto:peersupport@mind.org.uk)



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**How we look after your information:** The video you send in as part of this application process will be stored securely on our Mind system. Only people on the shortlisting panel will have access to your video. All videos will be deleted from our system once the final Working group has been decided and by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. You can read more about our [Privacy Policy here](#).

### What happens once I've applied?

Unfortunately, we won't be able to get back to all applications individually. If you have been shortlisted, we will be in touch by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

**Step 1** Once the deadline closes, a panel made up of independent lived experience consultants and members of the Mind Peer Support Team will consider everyone's answers, based on 3 categories, and scored 1 to 5 to create a shortlist of up to 8 people:

1. Skills that you can apply
2. Relevant personal and professional experience you have
3. Connection to our priority groups, including Black people and people of colour (BPoC), young people, LGBTQIA+ communities and people experiencing poverty.

**Step 2** All shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal interview via zoom, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Here you'll have the opportunity to talk more about your application and find out more about the role.

**Step 3** We will let you know by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 if you have been offered a place on the Forum Working Group.

### Timeline of application process

Opportunity opens	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Opportunity closes	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May by 12 noon
Zoom informal interviews with shortlist	Wednesday 8th June
First Working Group Meeting	Monday 20th June

### End of opportunity form

