**Role description: Mind in London Lived Experience Advisory**

**Group member**

Are you passionate about representing people’s mental health needs in London/your community? Would you like to be part of an advisory group for our partnership of local Minds across the capital?

At Mind in London, we’re currently recruiting to add to our Lived Experience Advisory Group. The group helps influence decisions about services and policies that impact on those of us who experience mental health problems.

This is a paid opportunity, and you will receive financial reimbursement for your attendance at meetings.

To add to the breadth and diversity of our group, we are specifically encouraging applications from men living with a mental health problem.

We are also hoping that our new membership will reflect the geographical makeup of London across the 5 Integrated Care Systems – these being North West London, North Central London, North East London, South East London and South West London.

**We are looking for people with:**

* Lived experience of mental health problems or a carer for someone with a mental health problem
* Either the experience or desire/ability to influence policy and practice across mental health services
* The ability to attend online meetings/discussion groups
* The ability to speak and share ideas in a group
* Experience or knowledge of using a specific service e.g. counselling services at particular time of life e.g. when you were a student, when you became a mother
* The ability to access and use online platforms such as Zoom/MS Teams
* The ability to access online documents to independently read documents in preparation for meetings.
* We are particularly interested in hearing from people from the following groups so we can include a range of experiences:
* Young people (18-25)
* People from BAME communities
* People from LGBTQI+ community
* People with long-term health conditions/or physically disabled
* People with experience of caring for someone with a mental health problem.
* Men who have experience of living with a mental health problem

**What we offer:**

* A safe space to share ideas and influence decisions about mental health services, campaigns and policy across London, using your voice of lived experience
* A platform to feed your ideas on the opportunities for projects and services for the Mind in London collective of 17 local Minds
* Feedback on the impact from your involvement and participation
* Payment of £13.50 per hour as reimbursement for attendance at 2hr meetings, plus any reading and preparation time for meetings (which is expected to be 50% of a meeting duration). You will also be paid any travel expenses incurred. Payments will be made by BACS bank transfer upon completion of a claims form\*
* An opportunity to develop skills and experience in presenting ideas to a group, interacting with other people in a group situation, reading and reflecting, communication skills, listening skills, sharing experiences and learning.

**What we ask from you:**

* Attendance at four meetings per year
* Each meeting will be during the day and will be no longer than two hours in length.
* Any reading documents for the meeting will be sent out a week in advance.

The deadline for applications is: **5.00pm Wednesday 6 December 2023**

We will contact shortlisted applicants by **Friday 8 December 2023**

Informal interviews will take place via MS Teams or over the phone, on **Wednesday 13 December / Thursday 14 December 2023**

We may not be able to reply to everyone who applies, so if you have not heard from us by 8 December then please assume that you have not been selected on this occasion. We would like to emphasise, that as we are looking to select a

group that represents a range of experiences and communities, not getting chosen may not be a reflection on your experience or knowledge.

For any further information about the role, or to discuss any accessibility requirements in relation to completing an application, please contact:

Lucy Dodd on l.dodd@mind.org.uk

**\* Payments are made in recognition of a contribution of time and expertise; they count as income and are therefore covered by the tax and benefit rules around declaration of earnings. It is important to understand that they may impact the amount of tax you need to pay and the amount of benefits that you are entitled to. We cannot give advice on individual tax and benefit positions and therefore it is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the tax and benefit implications. If you need advice speak to your local Benefits Advisor, Citizens Advice Bureau or see the information on the www.gov.co.uk**