

# Survivor/Lived Experience Involvement Consultant

# If you are passionate about embedding survivor involvement in mental health research, practice, and policy, the UKRI Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network would like to hear from you.

# Background

# The [Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network](http://www.vamhn.co.uk) (VAMHN) aims to reduce the prevalence of mental health problems in society by working to address experiences of violence and abuse, with a focus on domestic and sexual violence. It works by bringing together people with different ways of thinking about violence, abuse and mental health, some with personal experience of these issues, others with expertise from different types of work that they do (e.g. clinicians in psychiatry and psychology, academics in subjects ranging from healthcare, to history and sociology; charities; universities policy makers), and survivor researchers with both; seed funding new research; and developing researcher capacity. It is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and led by researchers from King’s College London, with a membership of over 700 individuals and organisations.

# The Survivor/Lived Experience Involvement Consultant will support the ongoing development of VAMHN’s survivor/lived experience involvement strategy and activities, including through the development and strengthening of links with local and national survivor/service user led organisations, and will help coordinate and facilitate the VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG).

# Person specification

* Educated to degree level or equivalent evidenced experience.
* Personal experience of violence, abuse, and/or mental health problems[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Experience in a voluntary or paid role of coordinating survivor/service user and/or carer involvement
* Experience of chairing or managing survivor/service user and/or carer groups in a violence, abuse, or mental health context.
* Experience of developing and maintaining successful working relationships with survivors, researchers, and practitioners.
* Demonstrable commitment to promoting inclusion and involvement for individuals and groups that have been subject to discrimination or disadvantage.
* Excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills, with sensitivity to individual preferences and confidentiality.
* Excellent time management skills and attention to detail.

Objectives

1. Identify good practice in survivor/lived experience involvement in a violence, abuse, and mental health context:
	1. Liaising with other relevant survivor/service user led groups and involvement activities to establish good practice
	2. Consolidate and discuss recommendations for strengthening survivor/lived experience involvement in the VAMHN
	3. Attending, contributing to, and presenting recommendations at VAMHN management meetings
2. Contribute as a key partner to the development and delivery of an overall lived experience/survivor involvement strategy for the VAMHN.
	1. Advising VAMHN on involvement issues across the network, including by communicating the views of LEAG members to the VAMHN and supporting the implementation of those views in the network’s approach and activities.
	2. Contributing to the development and delivery of specific VAMHN activities.
	3. Facilitating small survivor-led activities and events identified and developed by the LEAG.
	4. Working with VAMHN to ensure that events and activities are accessible to and involve survivors beyond the LEAG.
	5. Monitoring outcomes and reporting on the extent and effectiveness of survivor involvement in VAMHN and evaluating the impact of the LEAG on VAMHN.
3. Coordinating the VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG).
	1. Organising and facilitating quarterly LEAG meetings
	2. Working with the VAMHN coordinator to ensure administrative aspects of the LEAG group (e.g. arranging travel for or payments to LEAG Group members) are managed efficiently and accurately. *Please note that the consultant will not be directly responsible for organising travel and expenses; administrative support is provided by the VAMHN Coordinator.*
	3. Supporting LEAG members to contribute to VAMHN work (e.g. identifying and addressing access issues, training needs, wider support needs), including LEAG member involvement in assessing applications to VAMHN grant competitions.
4. Support the VAMHN to develop links with survivor/service user led organisations.
	1. Leading on developing links with relevant survivor/service user led groups at local and national levels, and consulting/involving them in VAMHN’s work as required.
	2. Contributing to writing up and publicising the VAMHN work, particularly to survivors/service users and user-led groups e.g. through written commentaries, blogs, podcasts.

# How to apply

# Applicants are requested to send their submission to vamhn@kcl.ac.uk with the subject line “Survivor/Lived Experience Involvement Consultant” by 7th August 2020. Please indicate your ability, availability, and day rate (in GBP) to undertake the terms of reference.

Applications must include:

* Cover letter
* CV

VAMHN are committed to diversity and inclusion, and encourage qualified candidates from all backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply. Please contact vamhn@kcl.ac.uk if you wish to discuss an alternative method of submitting an application (e.g. verbal rather than written) or have specific access requirements.

Terms of reference

Title: Survivor/Lived Experience Involvement Consultant

Contract type: Consultancy

Maximum contract value: £35,100.

Start date: Negotiable, earliest 14th August 2020

End date: 31 October 2022

Pattern: Negotiable, but to equate to 1 day per week.

Team: The consultant will be responsible to and supported by the VAMHN principal investigator Dr Sian Oram, with additional support from Dr Angela Sweeney (VAMHN co-investigator) who has lived experience of violence, abuse, and mental health. The consultant will work closely with Anjuli Kaul, the VAMHN Coordinator.

Location: Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, Denmark Hill Campus, King’s College London.

Terms and conditions: King’s College London’s general terms and conditions of trading apply. Please see <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/orgstructure/ps/procurement/assets/general-terms-and-conditions-of-trading-2019-2019-02-25.pdf>

1. As the consultant will be coordinating the involvement of people with experiences of violence/abuse and mental health problems, we are also seeking to recruit someone who has these lived experiences. However, at no time will the consultant be asked about their own personal experiences or be expected to disclose them. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)