

Building Better Opportunities - Peer Ambassador Volunteer Role Profile

What is BBO?

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) is an integrated, person-centred employment service for people with physical and mental health conditions, learning disabilities and complex needs. BBO is funded by a £2.7million grant from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Big Lottery Fund.

Over the next two years, we will be working with people across the Sheffield City Region who really want to work but need an extra bit of support. BBO brings together expertise in employment, health and wellbeing to ensure people with complex or multiple barriers to employment have the best possible chance of securing and sustaining a job they enjoy.

What is a Peer Ambassador?

As a BBO Peer Ambassador you will have experienced barriers to getting a job, and are now thriving in work whilst managing health conditions and/or living with disabilities. You will use this experience to help support, mentor and inform others who have complex needs but want to find and sustain employment.

This is a flexible role that gives you the opportunity to help people in a way that you are passionate about, from offering one-to-one support, setting up support networks or helping someone to try something new. The relationship will be based on mutuality and equality, allowing customers of BBO to open up and flourish in different ways.

As a Peer Ambassador, you will also have the opportunity to meet with employers in your community, to encourage them to support people with health conditions and disabilities in the workplace. You will be involved in the co-design and co-delivery of training for employers.

Peer Ambassadors will be an integral part of the BBO team, and will help make a real impact in people's lives. You will volunteer alongside healthcare professionals and employment specialists.

What's in it for me?

- Be part of a multidisciplinary, friendly and passionate team
- Gain skills and experience in mentoring and supporting individuals
- Gain skills and experience in public speaking and networking
- Make new friends and meet new people
- Advocate change in the workplace for people with complex needs
- Receive ongoing training and support
- Help vulnerable people make positive changes in their lives

What skills or experience do I need to have?

We are looking for enthusiastic, positive volunteers who are really passionate about supporting other people. You must be able to demonstrate that you have experienced your own barriers accessing employment and that gaining employment has had a positive impact on your wellbeing. In addition:

- You must enjoy working with people, and have an empathetic and caring personality
- You must be a good listener
- You must be reliable and dependable

What types of things will I be doing?

- One to one peer support to an individual you share lived experiences with. You will draw on your own experience to support them in achieving their goals
- Share practical strategies and coping mechanisms
- Alter attitudes to mental illness/disability and as such break down the stigma and foster hope

Where and when?

We are looking for ambassadors based in the following areas:

- Doncaster
- Barnsley
- Rotherham
- Chesterfield
- Sheffield

The exact time/location will be decided between you and the customer/s you are supporting. The hours you volunteer will be flexible based on your availability.

Training & support

- Induction with other Peer Ambassadors
- Support from the Programme Coordinator
- Access to further training and development opportunities as appropriate e.g. public speaking, mentoring
- Support from colleagues who are counsellors, occupational therapists and employment specialists

Other requirements

We will carry out a DBS check with all volunteers and will request 2 references prior to you starting.

To find out more and apply, please contact Caroline Muddimer via c.muddimer@syha.co.uk or calling 07393 015276