

Building Better Opportunities - Peer Researcher 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.

BBO will be evaluated to assess its impact on participants, as well as their friends, family and carers. Peer researchers will play a role in researching the experiences of various people.

What is a Peer Researcher?

As a BBO Peer Researcher 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 be passionate about making a difference and be interested in learning more about research and data. You don't need to have any previous experience in qualitative research, but you must be eager and willing to learn.

As a Peer Researcher, you will conduct interviews with customers on BBO, find out about their experience, transcribe your key findings, identify trends and begin to analyse the data you gather with the support of Sheffield Hallam University Researchers.

You will take part in a free training programme run by the University. In order to volunteer, **you must be available for all of the following dates:**

Session 1: Tuesday 4th April, 10am – 1pm: Introduction to your role and BBO, led by SYHA

Session 2: Tuesday 25th April, 10 - 1pm: Introduction to qualitative research, including interviewing skills

Session 3: Tuesday 2nd May, 10 - 1pm: Ethics, Health & Safety, Interview role play

Session 4: Tuesday 9th May, 10 - 1pm: Arranging interviews, mock interviews, developing & using the topic guide

Session 5: Tuesday 4th July, 10 - 1pm: Debrief and analysis

After the training and induction in April-May 2017, you will be supported by CRESR to conduct, analyse and evaluate your own peer research from June – July 2017.

What's in it for me?

- Be part of a multidisciplinary, friendly and passionate team
- Learn different ways to research experiences
- Learn how to analyse data
- Make new friends and meet new people
- 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 have an interest in research
- You must be a good listener
- You must be reliable and dependable

Where and when?

We are looking for researchers 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 interviewing. The hours you volunteer will be flexible based on your availability, but a minimum of 10 hours volunteering (in addition to the training) will be expected between June – July 2017. If you wish, you will have the opportunity to volunteer with BBO throughout the lifetime of the project.

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