



Everyone deserves
a safe place to
call home.

Company Limited by Guarantee number 1741926
Charity Number 287779
Registered in England as Single Homeless Project



Single
Homeless
Project

Job title: Specialist Advocate: WiSER project

Delegated Authority:

Team: WiSER project, co-located in the Camden and Islington Navigator Service

Responsible to: Service Manager

Responsible for: N/A

Job purpose



The WiSER project is a partnership of specialist charities working to end male violence and abuse. We work with women who are frequently excluded from mainstream services and/or find it hard to engage with support. Our outreach activity, trauma informed approach and flexible 1-1 and group support helps women to get the support they need.

Single Homeless Project are looking for a Specialist Advocate to provide intensive, flexible support and advocacy to a small caseload of women who are experiencing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD). SMD is defined as a woman experiencing three or more of the following:

- Women affected by homelessness
- Women with insecure immigration status
- Women with substance misuse
- Women with mental health problems
- Women with a history of offending behaviour
- Women involved in prostitution
- Women whose children have been taken into care and may be at risk of further removals.

The post holder will be committed to promoting multi-agency awareness and coordinated service delivery between VAWG, housing, legal, mental health and substance use agencies. The post holder will ensure they are supporting and enabling women affected by VAWG and experiencing multiple disadvantage to reduce risk, make informed choices and build self-esteem. Additionally, building and maintaining effective relationships across statutory and voluntary sector partners.

Key accountabilities

General responsibilities

- Use an assertive outreach approach to engage women with the service.
- Assess women referred to the service to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and signpost any women who do not to other services.
- Promote social inclusion, encourage independence, and develop personal resilience of women affected by violence against women and severe and multiple disadvantage.

Casework

- Solution-focused casework interventions with women who have experienced VAWG and severe and multiple disadvantage.
- Provide emotional support using a psychologically informed approach.
- Build and maintain supportive relationships with women
- Ensure ongoing assessment and management of risks associated with service users within an attitude of 'positive risk taking'.
- Provide support with life skills, including practical assistance where skills are not yet developed.
- Maintain accurate case notes and up to date records.
- Contribute to the completion of outcomes reports and funding returns.

Advocacy and support service

- Promote peer support work with women experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- Empower women to access benefits and services they need.
- Involve service users in the design, development and delivery of the service.
- Contribute to the development of peer support network and 'survivor' forum.

Multi-agency

- Engage with a wide range of professionals (some of whom may have very different approaches to problem solving) through a multi-agency approach, and advocate to agencies on behalf of the Project and its service users.

-
- Promote coordinated, joined-up service delivery for service users between violence against women services and drug and alcohol agencies, mental health, housing, health and legal agencies.
 - Contribute to service-wide communications plan and ensure that information about the service is widely available locally to other agencies and is also readily accessible to potential service users.
 - Educate a wide range of agencies and stakeholders about the challenges faced by service users and women experiencing multiple disadvantage.
 - Proactively develop of links with local statutory and voluntary organisations to provide a range of engagement opportunities for service users in the community.
 - Attend and contribute to the Domestic Violence MARAC when required.
 - Contribute to monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Miscellaneous

- SHP is at discretion to amend your responsibilities and, in addition to these, you may be required to perform other duties as may be required for the efficient running of the organisation.
- To create inclusive working environments and cultures to enable colleagues and clients to feel safe and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Technical and professional know-how needed for position

When completing your application, you will be required to address (using examples) some of the points below

Experience and Knowledge

- Experience of working within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Sector, including experience of risk & needs assessment, casework, and safety planning with victim-survivors **and/or**
- Experience of working with people experiencing various aspects of severe and multiple disadvantage: homelessness, substance use, mental health issues, insecure immigration status, prostitution and offending behaviour.
- Experience of building and maintaining partnerships with other agencies.
- An excellent understanding of the issues faced by women survivors of VAWG, including a knowledge of options for and rights of women experiencing all forms of VAWG.
- Awareness of the intersection between severe and multiple disadvantage and VAWG, and a strong understanding of how the intersection of these issues can make it difficult for people to engage with support.
- An understanding of the impact of trauma on women.

Skills and Abilities

- A resilient and assertive approach to reaching out to and building trust and positive relationships with women who are experiencing multiple disadvantage and who may present as reluctant to engage and/or may be presenting in crisis.
- Excellent organisational and ICT skills including the ability to be self-servicing, use relevant IT packages and maintain an efficient case recording and data reporting system and excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Commitment to improving services and life chances for women affected by VAWG who are experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage.
- Non-judgemental, non-directive and empowering approach to supporting individual women.
- High level of personal resilience, flexibility, self-motivation, and ability to think creatively with a 'can-do' attitude that can inspire others.
- Commitment to working with a feminist ethos.