Context and Brief for Mental Health Support Service Volunteer Support Worker Post

The MHCS Service has supported and developed 6 new enterprising groups of people over the last year to start the process of becoming self-run creative projects. There is a tangible 'buzz' from the creative involvement and expression, activity and commitment that members bring to these groups. Creativity Works recognises and has been told by individuals that they begin to see themselves as more than their illness and as empowered creative individuals taking part in cultural activity across B&NES.

Creativity Works in partnership with the artists and participants it supports through the MHCSS, has identified a need for creative community groups to link and learn from each other as their groups and projects develop.

Creativity Works would like to strengthen support for these networks and the skills amongst group member volunteers. The funding would support creative networks across B&NES by enabling volunteers within these creative hubs to take on the responsibilities of supporting other creatives. Bringing creative people together creates new ideas and inspires confidence.

The Volunteer Support Worker will train and facilitate creative volunteers in processes that will underpin their groups / networks sustainability. This will include training and facilitation in:

This funding will support the sustainable evolution of enterprising projects and groups and will work alongside and with the existing MHCSS to strengthen the development of volunteer support which will support a network of creative hubs across B&NES.

The Purpose of the post is to assist the Wellbeing Project Manager to deliver the MHCSS Outcomes set out here.

Creativity Works - Monitoring and Evaluation Categories and Outcomes

Wellbeing and Health	Development and Progression	Community Engagement
• A positive view of self • Dealing with problems • Feeling Optimistic • Feeling relaxed • Having aspirations	• Creative learning and self-expression • Interest in learning and trying new things • Interest in developing skills and abilities	• Feeling positive about being around others • Feeling close to others • Feeling part of a group/community

Outcomes

Wellbeing	Development and Progression	Community Engagement
• Improved health and wellbeing as measured through definitions above	• Peer support groups assist users to become self-supporting • Increased number of volunteers and volunteering opportunities. • Increased number of social enterprises • Community voice influences service provision	• Increased numbers of people with mental health problems have better access to community services and activities • Improved access to social activities - support provided • Community initiatives provide local solutions • Community inclusion

Creativity Works bases its evaluation methodology around the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale and our research has also referred to NEF Wellbeing indicators, the Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment tools, Creativity Works' Outcomes Framework, NICE Guidelines and the EPDS (Edinburgh Post Natal Depression Scale). We have also referred to the recommendations from the Social Impact Research Report from Dr. Barbara Teater and Dr. Mark Baldwin of the University of Bath.

The Volunteer Support Worker will work with the Project Manager: Wellbeing , project partners and the progression group participants to include training and facilitation in:

1. **To support volunteers and groups with management,** new roles and responsibilities, encouraging peer support and signposting support.	
2. Enabling **communication networks** set up by participants e.g. social media (emailing, blogging, drop-box etc.), to enable greater networking amongst creative groups in B&NES and the wider community	
3. **Marketing** - how to use technology to promote themselves and their groups/ projects, events and shows e.g. designing posters to recruit new members, advertise exhibitions, using power point when talking at events;	
4. **Confidence building** - to support individuals and groups in meeting new people and communities e.g. taking part in B&NES community and cultural activities, supporting individuals to have a voice through media or by publishing their expressive work, putting on a show, networking with other cultural activity or working towards a show,	
5. **Signposting** e.g. personal peer to peer creative community support; to other community organisations and support services and activities.	
6. **How to lead creative sessions:** supporting group members to understand skills that can help enable inclusive group participation. Supporting groups members to facilitate their own sessions	
7. **Identifying transferable work skills with group members** e.g. expressing yourself confidently through written word or presentations.	
8. **Writing funding bids to enable the support of sustainable enterprising groups/ projects and groups.**	

These requirements set the specific person specification elements for the post