

projectart works

PILOT STUDY – EVALUATOR BRIEF

Project Art Works is seeking a skilled evaluator/researcher to undertake a period of focussed research with support workers and families running personalised provisions in order to establish their needs for support. The role requires an understanding of current policy on community-based and independent living for people who have complex needs and behaviours that challenge.

Project Art Works is an artist-led organisation working with children, young people and adults who have complex needs alongside families, carers and professionals on a wide range of creative projects.

The organisation provides specialist and holistic support to children, young people and adults with behaviours that challenge and works closely with families and services to improve outcomes in social care.

Project Art Works will oversee the evaluation programme with support from a steering group that includes Hastings Voluntary Action, families running successful provisions, a clinical psychologist and skilled support workers. This was established in 2015 to drive forward an exploratory programme of evaluation and forums leading towards a user-led support worker agency that facilitates the sharing of resources and skills between support workers, families and a range of professionals. The programme is administered and led by Project Art Works in consultation with the steering group through regular meetings.

In July 2016 we were awarded a modest grant from the Hastings and Rother CCG through the Healthier Hastings and Rother initiative. The award enables us to deliver this pilot project over 6 months to explore different models of support for young people and adults in receipt of Direct payments or Personal Health Budgets. Through the pilot we want to establish what kinds of support are available and/or whether new models of support are needed to ensure high quality and successful, personalized provisions going forward.

The aims of the pilot project are to:

1. Establish and facilitate up to 6 focus groups for support workers and families
2. Work with the local CLDT and the psychology pathway to inform those who attend the focus group sessions and to share experiences.
3. Evaluate the efficacy and deficits of current support for families and for support workers
4. Provide planning and management tools to families running their own provisions and who have asked for help
5. Establish a register of on-call support workers to share incidents and/or challenging experiences in their role – and to document these interactions
6. Comment on the outcome of implementing the above measures on health and wellbeing of participants during the period of the pilot.

projectart works

7. Evaluate resources required to implement, maintain and monitor an operating frame work to deliver the project objectives. (cost/benefit analysis)
8. Gain support for the project from existing services.

Evaluator/researcher brief

Over 6 months and working closely with Project Art Works and the steering group, the evaluator will:

- work closely with the Project Art Works team and the project steering group to facilitate the organisation and delivery of the evaluation
- structure and deliver up to 6 focus groups with support workers and families
- transcribe and analyse data & material
- produce a report on the work

The evaluator will collate feedback and report on:

1. the value and use of current services that aim to support people and families running their own personalized provisions
2. mental and emotional stress for families working in isolation with children, young people and adults to have behaviours that challenge.
3. What support workers need to support them working in isolation with children, young people and adults to have behaviours that challenge and enable them to progress
4. Issues that affect families and support workers in the delivery of high quality, choice driven lives for people who have complex needs and behaviours that challenge
5. Recruitment and issues affecting staff turnover for family run provisions
6. Best practice in managing staff retention and well-rounded provisions

Person specification

- Proven track record of conducting focus groups
- Good communicator/interview
- Knowledge of social care/complex needs
- Experience of working with families
- Knowledge of personalisation

Fee: £3000

(15 days over a 6-month period)

All on costs such as venue hire, administration and organisation of focus groups, communications and hospitality will be covered by the project administration funds.

Start date: October 2016. End date: 31 March 2017

Contact:

Wendy Routley, Project Art Works

Arch 3, Braybrooke Terrace. Hastings TN34 1TD. 01424423555

Email: wendy@projectartworks.org