



# PEER RESEARCH VOLUNTEER - ROLE DESCRIPTION

Peer research is one of the ways SDF involves people with experience of substance use in shaping research and improving services. By taking part, you can help make sure people's voices are heard, respected, and represented.

SDF recognises that people with living or lived experience bring understanding, empathy and trust to research and evaluation work. They can help break down barriers and encourage more open, honest conversations with participants.

We work on both national and local projects. These can involve working in partnership with other organisations, universities and government who want to include living and lived experience within their independent research.

**The overall aim of our peer research work is to gain an accurate insight into the issues affecting people who use substances and/or services, their opinions, perceptions and experiences; so that services can be designed, managed and delivered more effectively.**

## Peer research can include activities such as:

- ◆ Facilitating 1-2-1 interviews/surveys in person and over the phone
- ◆ Supporting focus groups
- ◆ Outreach to local services to recruit participants
- ◆ Designing and testing questionnaires
- ◆ Helping to analyse project data

## We're looking for people who:





- ◆ Have living or lived experience of substance use
- ◆ Interested in connecting with others in a research capacity
- ◆ Non-judgemental and keen to learn new skills
- ◆ Reliable and able to keep commitments
- ◆ Motivated to help improve services

**You don't need qualifications or previous experience - just a willingness to get involved.**

# SCOTTISH DRUGS FORUM

## Training and Support

All volunteers will take part in a mandatory in person induction that covers:

-  SDF's values and ways of working
-  Research and what that looks like in practice
-  Information about substance use and stigma
-  Key topics like confidentiality, boundaries and self-care

You'll have opportunities to access other internal and external training on various relevant topics, such as digital skills, mental health awareness and harm reduction interventions.





You will have a named SDF staff member for regular support and take part in group sessions with other volunteers. We can also explore options for further, more tailored support, for those who could benefit.

## What you'll gain from the role:

As well as access to training, volunteers get opportunities to attend local and national events. We are committed to helping our volunteers increase their confidence and transferable skills and will offer support for other things you may want to access, such as education or employment.

Volunteers get the chance to work with others and contribute to projects affecting their local community and beyond.

## Practical Information:

-  Volunteers are reimbursed for all reasonable expenses, including travel.
-  The role involves regular activity - depending on your availability.
-  There may be opportunities to travel across Scotland, but this is not essential.
-  Volunteers will be asked to join the PVG scheme - this will be explained fully if your application is successful.

## To find out more and discuss the next steps, please contact:

Nicola Abson, Development Officer

**Email:** [peerengagement@sdf.org.uk](mailto:peerengagement@sdf.org.uk)

**Phone, text or WhatsApp:** 07825743903

