

## **NSPA Lived Experience Co-Chair: Appointment Information Pack**



Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest in the newly created role of Lived Experience Co-Chair of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA).

This information pack sets out details about the role, what knowledge, skills and experience we are looking for and details about the recruitment process.

The NSPA's vision is that fewer lives are lost to suicide and anyone affected by suicide receives the best possible support. Our mission is to get all parts of society working together to take action to reduce suicide and improve the support for those affected. Our purpose is to strengthen suicide prevention efforts across England by ensuring it is informed by lived experience, supports good practice, shapes policy and we work collaboratively to break down the barriers that hinder progress.

Over the past 18 months the NSPA has been through a period of significant change – moving to a new host organisation, the [National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health](#), as well as strategically reviewing our programme and way of working. We are now at the start of a three-year strategic transformation plan to evolve our offer to meet the needs of both our own networks and the wider suicide prevention community where it is now.

As part of this, we are introducing a new Lived Experience (LE) Co-Chair role to sit alongside the Host Co-Chair and the Suicide Prevention Co-Chair. This is to reflect our commitment to embedding LE expertise at all levels of the NSPA.

We are also changing our way of working, introducing a Management Group to provide operational and strategic oversight of the NSPA and an Advisory Group of organisational and lived experience members that feed into this. This is in place of the previous steering group.

The LE Co-Chair will sit on the newly formed Management Group and co-lead the Advisory Group alongside the other Co-Chairs.

This role will play a vital part in supporting the NSPA's transformation plans alongside the other Co-Chairs. We are looking for someone to join us who is passionate about suicide prevention, lived experience expertise and involvement, and who has the right skills, experience, knowledge and networks to further our mission and goals. Our new Co-Chair will be instrumental in ensuring we are trusted and recognised for influencing suicide prevention policy and practice.

You can find out more about our work by visiting [www.nspa.org.uk](http://www.nspa.org.uk). If you would like to arrange an informal chat about the role before making an application, please contact [rosemary.ellis@nspa.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.ellis@nspa.org.uk).

With best wishes

Tom Ayers and Ellen O'Donoghue

Co-Chairs

Rosie Ellis and Jess Worner

Executive Lead and LE Network Manager

# **NSPA Lived Experience Co-Chair: Role Description and Person Specification**

## **Description of the role**

We are seeking someone with lived experience of suicide who is a passionate advocate for lived experience involvement and co-production in suicide prevention to join the NSPA leadership. The Lived Experience Co-Chair is a newly created role that will sit alongside the two existing Co-Chair roles and form part of the Management Group, providing operational and strategic oversight of the NSPA. Co-Chairs will work closely with the NSPA staff team, as well as the Advisory Group (to be appointed), made up of organisational and lived experience members. The NSPA is undergoing strategic transformation to ensure it fulfils its mission. The LE Co-Chair will be instrumental in supporting this, with a focus on ensuring that lived experience is embedded in organisational strategy and governance.

## **About the NSPA**

The National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA) is a vital network that connects organisations, professionals and individuals with lived experience who are working in suicide prevention. We are hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health at the Royal College of Psychiatrists (NCCMH/ RCPsych). There are currently more than 4,000 individuals and organisations in our community, who take individual and collective action to reduce suicide and self-harm, and support those affected by suicide. We also have a Lived Experience Network that supports the involvement of people with lived experience in suicide prevention activity across the country; striving to ensure that lived experience is valued, respected and seen as legitimate. Our members include large national organisations, local authorities, VSCE and statutory services through to grassroots community groups.

This is an exciting time to join the NSPA as we implement a new strategy. We recognise that to achieve our mission and drive systemic change, we must evolve to focus more clearly on driving policy-change through stronger advocacy in suicide prevention. We need to do this while continuing to value and support the collaborative network that provides our foundation. To do this, we have four overarching goals over the next three years:

- To become an influential force for policy change and a powerful voice for suicide prevention, ensuring the Government makes suicide prevention a priority, uniting key players and amplifying voices.

- To build on our well-established work on lived experience involvement, ensuring that our Lived Experience Network, and the voice and expertise of people with lived experience, has influence at national, regional and local level.
- To strengthen and diversify our membership, including voices, communities and perspectives that have been lesser heard or marginalised in suicide prevention.
- To position the NSPA as an inclusive community where learning, collaboration and influencing come together to drive change in suicide prevention.

### **Role Description - What will the Lived Experience Co-Chair do?**

#### Lived Experience Leadership

- Work closely with the Executive Lead, Lived Experience Network Manager and Management group to ensure lived experience is embedded in the NSPA's organisational strategy and governance.
- Lead and work closely with Lived Experience members of the NSPA Advisory Group, ensuring the perspectives and expertise are brought into Management Group decision making.

#### Overall Strategy and Leadership

- Support oversight of NSPA's governance and operations (including finance and income generation) and be jointly responsible for the strategic direction of the alliance via the newly formed Management Group.
- Work with the Executive Lead to ensure that the objectives and remit of the NSPA Management and Advisory Groups are adhered to and as far as possible met.
- Provide ongoing advice, guidance and support to the Executive Lead of the NSPA, while respecting executive responsibility.
- Share the leadership of the wider NSPA Advisory Group, which replaces the existing Steering Group. This includes engaging with and consulting the group on the strategic direction of the NSPA, with a particular focus on the new Lived Experience members of the Advisory Group.
- Rotate responsibility of the Chairing of NSPA Advisory Group meetings and Chairing the Lived Experience Advisory group.

#### External engagement and advocacy

- Advocate for and represent the NSPA with key stakeholders in the field of suicide prevention and associated leaders in politics, health services, businesses and voluntary and community sector organisations.

- Maintain an external focus, ensuring NSPA is aware of issues related to rapidly changing external environments, especially in public policy.
- Help support income generation, including developing existing and new contacts, and liaising with existing and potential financial donors as required.

### **Person specification**

Applicants will demonstrate as many of the following experience, knowledge, skills and personal attributes as possible:

### **Experience, knowledge and skills**

#### **Essential**

- Personal lived experience related to suicide and ability to draw on this appropriately, sensitively, and safely within the Co-Chair role.
- Excellent knowledge and experience of lived experience involvement and co-production in health, social care or community contexts.
- Excellent understanding of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and how this applies to the suicide prevention and lived experience context, with a focus on racial equity.
- Experience of leadership roles, working collaboratively to make strategic decisions, and motivate people.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to collaboratively work with and engage with people from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives and professions.

#### **Desirable**

- Understanding of lived experience involvement and co-production in the context of suicide prevention policy and strategic landscape.
- Experience of Board level or senior leadership roles and organisational oversight.
- Experience in mentoring or coaching in an organisational context.

#### **Personal attributes**

- Commitment to the values and aims of the NSPA.
- Commitment to engaging with, and holding, a plurality of perspectives and priorities across a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Commitment to, and passion for, engaging and amplifying lesser heard and marginalised voices in suicide prevention.

## **Additional information**

### **How are the Co-Chair positions appointed?**

There is one vacant Lived Experience Co-Chair position which is the role currently being appointed to. The Suicide Prevention Co-Chair position is currently held by Ellen O'Donoghue, CEO of James' Place, and the third co-chair position is a fixed position that is filled by the Director of the NCCMH, Tom Ayers, as host organisation of the NSPA.

### **Terms of Service**

The full term will be three years but with a review of the role at 12 months once our new governance structure is fully embedded.

### **Location, time commitment and remuneration**

The NSPA team operates on a hybrid working model and the office is based in London. This role may involve some in-person meetings with the NSPA team, as well and travel to London and within the UK.

Attendance is required at NSPA Management and Advisory Group meetings (approximately 8 per year) and Annual Conference and may also include other strategic meetings. Management and Advisory Group meetings will be held virtually, with one or two in-person meetings a year. You may also be asked to represent NSPA at some external events, in Parliament or at other important national strategic meetings.

We would expect this role will require approximately one day per month to effectively co-chair NSPA. Aligned with our Lived Experience payment policy, remuneration of the LE Co-Chair role is offered on a consultancy basis. Remuneration equates to £300 per day. Out of pocket expenses related to the role will also be reimbursed in line with NSPA's expenses policy.

### **Recruitment and selection process**

Recruitment is by an open application process. Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted before invitation to interview. References will also be requested and taken up before any formal offer of this role.

### **How to apply**

Please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter (no longer than two sides of A4) to [info@nspa.org.uk](mailto:info@nspa.org.uk). An informal chat about the role can be arranged on request.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **09:00 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**.

Interviews will be arranged with the shortlisted candidates, and we hope to appoint by the end of May.