

The ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health Lived Experience Advisory Board

Member Role Description

We're trying to change the way mental health research is done by grounding it in lived experience. Will you join us?

We hope to recruit a diverse group of people from across the UK with direct and indirect lived experience. We appreciate that everyone brings different skills and experiences to the table and look forward to hearing about yours. Generally, we are looking for people who:

- Question the unequal power relations and inequality that exist in our current systems,
- Demonstrate a commitment to promoting inclusion and involvement of people who are often excluded, and
- Are committed to fostering a respectful, supportive, collaborative environment where the input of all Lived Experience Advisory Board Members is valued.

Importantly, a research background is not necessary, and you will not be expected to justify your lived experience. You will be welcomed to share your lived experience when you feel comfortable.

What is the role?

We are looking to recruit 5 new members to the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) on a paid, freelance basis. As a **Lived Experience Advisory Board Member**, you will help us to change the way that mental health research is done.

The role is flexible, but is likely to involve the following tasks:

- Attending regular online LEAB meetings to discuss and identify gaps in knowledge in the field of society and mental health,
- Participating in the development and completion of LEAB-led projects,
- Offering consultancy, scrutiny, influence and challenge at the various levels of the Centre, and
- Advising Centre staff on best practices for working with people with direct and indirect lived experience.

If selected, you will be paid at a rate of £187 per day and £93.50 per half day of work. We can discuss alternative forms of payment if the receipt of a direct debit will be a challenge for you.

People who are disabled, from racialised groups, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, are/have been system-impacted, and/or have experienced systemic oppression are very strongly encouraged to apply.

Who are we?

We are the Lived Experience Advisory Board at the ESRC King's College Centre for Society and Mental Health. We are a group of people with direct and indirect experiences of disabling barriers, neurodivergence, mental distress, mental illness, trauma, caring/supporting people in mental distress, and/or (ref)using mental health services including experiences of iatrogenic harm.

We seek to ground the Centre's direction and wider conversations about mental health in our lived experience. Examples of projects we have worked on include:

- Developing a research methods toolkit for free access by community members,
- Submitting lived experience comments on the Government's Draft Mental Health Bill, and
- Making sure the priorities of people with lived experience are reflected in the Centre's work.

You can check out our webpage (<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/csmh/about/lived-experience-advisory-board>) or the Centre's webpage (<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/csmh>) for more information.

How do you apply?

The deadline for submitting your application is Friday, 14 April 2023. To apply, please prepare an expression of interest that explains:

- Why you are interested in this role,
- A little about the skills and experiences you have that will enable you to conduct this work, and
- How you meet the evaluation criteria, which are listed in the below 'How will you be evaluated?' section.

You are welcome to submit your application in whatever format is best for you (e.g., written document, video file, voice note). Submissions should be long enough for us to get to know you, with an upper limit of about 750 words or 5 minutes of content. Expressions of interest can be submitted to Madison Wempe, the LEAB Coordinator, via email at madison.wempe@kcl.ac.uk or via WhatsApp at 07597 644151. Shortlisted candidates are likely to be interviewed during the week of the 8th May 2023.

How will you be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated by current LEAB Members, the LEAB Coordinator, and the LEAB Academic Lead.

We will use the below criteria to evaluate your expression of interest:

- Identifies as having relevant lived experience and is based in the UK
- Committed to fostering a respectful, collaborative environment
- Recognizes and challenges the unequal power relations that exist in our system and seeks to change these towards a just position
- Interested in mental health, intersectionality, and social justice
- Interested in developing LEAB-led projects and engaging in the work going on across the Centre

We will aim to respond to your application by Friday, 5 May 2023. Short-listed candidates will be invited to an informal interview/conversation with current LEAB Members, the LEAB Coordinator, and the LEAB Academic Lead. Feedback on your application will be made available if you request it.

Who can you contact with questions?

If you have any questions or accessibility concerns, please contact the LEAB Coordinator, Madison Wempe, at madison.wempe@kcl.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.