

Community Engagement Volunteer Description

'Community': Noun; the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common.

'Engagement': Noun; the fact of being involved with something

About Waverley Care

Scotland is on track to be one of the first countries in the world to achieve zero HIV transmissions, and Waverley Care will play an essential role in getting us there.

A positive HIV diagnosis still has the power to knock people off their feet and impact every part of their lives. People living with HIV still carry the burden of decades of discrimination and misinformation about HIV. HIV is treatable, but the stigma and shame surrounding HIV holds people back and makes it different to other life-long conditions. Stigma and the fear of an HIV diagnosis still prevents many people at risk getting a test and knowing their status.

Our vision is for a Scotland where no one faces HIV alone, we will achieve this by fighting stigma and empowering people living with HIV to live full and healthy lives.

Waverley Care is Scotland's leading HIV and hepatitis C charity, and everything we do is guided by the experiences of the people we work with – this ranges from shaping the services we deliver through to how we influence national policy around sexual health and blood borne viruses.

We are at an exciting point in our history as we strive to reach the goal of zero transmissions by 2030. There is much work to be done, but as an organisation we are driven to create lasting change for everyone in Scotland living with, or at risk of HIV or hepatitis C.

You can find out more about the work we do at our website www.waverleycare.org.

About the role

Community Engagement Volunteers help us stay connected with the community by creating opportunities for gay, bisexual, and all men who have sex with men (GBMSM). The responsibilities of the role include finding and maintaining connections to social groups, sports teams, club nights, and any other relevant activities.

The role will also be responsible for communicating updates about these groups and activities, including changes in venues, cancelled sessions and other developments. Additionally, they will be on the lookout for fresh opportunities or potential partnerships. Depending on the availability, volunteers may also liaise with local venues to assist in our weekly condom and lube distribution.

Your energy and passion are what we need to spark connections and spread positivity. From cool events to lending a helping hand, you'll be at the heart of every opportunity to connect with the community we work with.

About the person

A Community Engagement Volunteer is enthusiastic about making new connections and maintaining existing ones. They are confident in making phone calls, sending emails and organising information so it is accessible to staff and fellow volunteers. They are passionate about community engagement and are committed to ensuring that all GBMSM are aware of the available opportunities.

A Community Engagement Volunteer is familiar with additional support services and groups that can be recommended to service users, has a good understanding and personal interest in sexual health topics and feels at ease discussing them.

Key strengths

- **Connected:** They are well connected within their local LGBTQ+ community or are looking for the opportunity to use their connections to influence positive change. They can manage contacts and keep up to date with information from various sources.
- **Organised:** They can research, sort through information, and communicate effectively with staff.
- **Active:** They keep up to date on events through social media, email lists, or other forms of communication.

Responsibilities and duties

- Meeting with members of the public.
- Attending community-based events.
- Being active on social media forums.
- Cultivating strong relationships within the LGBTQ+ community and proactively seeking and establishing new connections and contacts.
- Developing rapport and effective communication channels with Waverley Care staff and the LGBTQ+ community.
- Referring and signposting service users to other support services and groups.

Support and training

- Volunteers will have a designated member of staff as their back up support.
- Volunteers will receive regular one to one support. This can be tailored to suit your individual needs (over coffee, phone call, in person etc.).
- Support is available via an "open door policy"; scheduled catchups will also be provided.
- Comprehensive volunteer training will be provided and updated appropriately.