



Hearing Voices Network
c/o Sheffield Hearing Voices Network
Limbrick Day Service, Limbrick Road
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Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in the new role of Associate Trainer. The National Hearing Voices Network are creating this new role as a response to feedback from our members during consultation for our organisational strategy.

At HVN we believe that voices, visions, tactile sensations and other unusual sensory experiences should be viewed as a meaningful aspect of a person's life. The network is open to the many diverse opinions and we accept the explanations of each individual voice hearer. A fundamental principle of the HVN approach is the right of people to define their own experiences and the need for safe spaces to enable this. We are not anti-medical model, we are pro real and informed choice.

Our Associate Trainers will use the HVN message to bring about changes in the way people who hear voices or see visions are understood and treated by mental health services. They will use their skills to inform, challenge, guide and inspire practitioners, focusing primarily on statutory providers where we believe change is needed most urgently. We will encourage providers to invite service users from the local area as we recognise that this will help create opportunities for sustainable change.

We will make an initial offering of a limited range of standard training courses that we feel represent the core interests of the network. These will be Supporting People who Hear Voices, Service User Involvement, and an Introduction to the Hearing Voices Movement. We will also offer a more in depth Hearing Voices Group network development programme with a smaller cohort of our most experienced trainers. We will be looking for trainers who can deliver the standard courses, and trainers who can deliver the development programme – you may wish to apply for one or both of these dependent on your skills and experience. Over time we will broaden the range of our training offer in response to demand and feedback from trainers and trainees.

As an Associate Trainer you will be called upon to offer training as and when needed; we cannot guarantee a minimum number of sessions and candidates should be clear that building the new role will be an incremental process. We will be asking our small team of Associate Trainers to help build the programme over the coming months.

The closing date for applications is 28 February 2014 and interviews will take place during the last week of March. If you are successful you will receive written confirmation and further information on the interview process.

We wish you luck with your application and thank you for taking the time to apply to work with the National Hearing Voices Network.

Yours Sincerely

Giles Tinsley (Trustee)