



My Voice

Creative Writing Group

Opportunity for a Writer in Residence Opportunity

Ceartas is looking for a writer with a talent for teaching creative writing to nurture the skills of vulnerable adults and help them to find their own voices.

We are looking for a writer to work on “My Voice” which reaches out to Ceartas service users and will culminate in the launch of an anthology aiming to raise awareness of living with a long term condition and promotes the importance of seeing the person and not the condition.

My Voice – Project Overview

As the sole provider of independent advocacy in East Dunbartonshire, Ceartas specialise in helping people have their voice heard in a range of sensitive situations. Facilitating a group which supports people to tell their stories in this new format will encourage just that, helping develop confidence and empower members of the community who often feel discriminated against or excluded.

This project will culminate in a publication which will be used to challenge and breakdown stigma around "service user land" and associated conditions. We also intend to use the publication as a tool to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of independent advocacy, by giving examples of advocacy within context that will help explain just how advocacy can support you.

We have shortlisted around 15 service users from our current client group who have stated their interest in participating in such a course. We will celebrate the diversity of each person and help them record their compelling stories, helping reduce the stigma of a range of conditions in the words of those who are the expert.

The course will take place over 12 weeks and will be facilitated by ‘Writer in Residence’ (Scottish Book Trust) alongside staff from Ceartas. 8 weeks of the programme will be dedicated to creating the material, with the final 4 weeks to prepare the publication and launch of the product.

Although the course is aimed at around 15 service users, the materials/publication will reach much further than East Dunbartonshire and act as a document of good practice, a tool for both combating stigma and explaining the role of independent advocacy in Scotland and the UK.

We are looking for someone who can:

1. Plan and deliver a series of workshops to a group of up to 15 service users; 8 workshops of approx.3 hours. The workshops need to meet the needs of a group with mixed abilities and promote confidence, individuality and the significance of being an active participant in your life.
2. Collate and edit service users work for publication as an anthology for My Voice
3. Participate and co-host the launch of the publication.
4. Work with identified staff member from Ceartas to co-ordinate and plan sessions.
5. Attend one team meeting and one Board meeting to showcase the work
6. Assist in preparing service users for the launch of the anthology

What we are looking for:

1. Writers with a publication record and recognition of their achievements
2. Experience of teaching creative writing, preferably to students of mixed abilities.
3. Demonstrable successful experience of working with vulnerable adults
4. Someone who can enthuse participants, help foster in them a love of writing, build their confidence and inspire their creativity.

Remuneration

13 weeks for which a fee of £6500 is payable

What we need from you:

1. A copy of your CV and a covering letter stating why you would like to be our writer in residence
2. A sample workshop outline

Please send cover letter, CV and sample workshop plan to Sharon Bairden (sbairden@ceartas.org.uk) by 11th August 2017. Discussions with suitable candidates will be held week beginning 21st August 2017.

For more information on the work that we do please visit www.ceartas.org.uk

