

MACMILLAN PEER EVALUATOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Peer Evaluator?

A Macmillan Peer Evaluator is a person who is living with or beyond cancer who carries out interviews with their peers, that is people with a similar experience who are participants in the project.

Peer Evaluators may not only be involved in carrying out interviews, but can also be involved in developing interview schedules and data analysis. Being involved at multiple stages increases the influence of people affected by cancer in the project.

Why Carry Out Peer Evaluation?

The aim of carrying out peer evaluation is to help us improve people's experiences of services, by exploring a current service or gaps in services.

Involving Peer Evaluators can improve the quality of the interview data and the experience of the interviewees. Interviewees may be more relaxed and feel they can be more open and honest when interviewed by another person affected by cancer.

Peer evaluation helps us to gain a better understanding from the perspective of people affected by cancer. Helping us to develop the right support and information for people affected by cancer, at the right place and time.

What support do Peer Evaluators get?

We take the responsibility of keeping Peer Evaluators safe, ensuring that they are able to deal with the type of emotions that may be stirred up for the cancer patients during the interview. We will offer training and run an initial session to explain the project brief, develop the questions, but importantly to ensure everyone is aware of keeping themselves safe physically and emotionally, are equipped to deal with the emotions of those they speak to, and to ensure that the Peer Evaluators themselves know who they can access for support.

What are the main duties?

- Attend, and participate in, project scoping meetings.
- Design of the interview schedule – formulating a list of interview questions for use in the project.
- Attend, and participate in, project briefings.
- Conduct peer interviews.
- Compile interview notes.
- Attend, and participate in, post project briefing and analysis.
- Attend peer supervision meetings.
- Comply with the policies and procedures of Macmillan Cancer Support.

What Skills, abilities, and experience are required?

You must have the following to be considered for this role, ability to:

- Understand and adhere to the boundaries of the project
- Observe and assess objectively
- Actively listen and respond appropriately
- Communicate effectively with a diverse range of people
- Capture information in writing during the interview
- Work as part of a team
- Leave aside one's own personal agenda and issues
- Be self-aware, and able to ask for support or time to debrief if needed
- Understand and adhere to issues regarding safeguarding

It would help if you had the following, but they're not essential.

- Background in Health and Social Care Services
- Experience of working with vulnerable people

An induction and training for peer evaluators will be arranged and access to the Macmillan Learning and Development opportunities made available

What is the time commitment? Days, times and hours required:

- At least one project per year.
- Projects will usually take between 3 and 6 months.
- Two 2.5 hour meetings in the initial project planning stage.
- Up to ten interviews per project, we estimate that each interview will be approx. 1 hour.
- Post project debrief, 2 hours.
- Attending bi monthly peer support meetings.

Will I need a criminal record check?

An Enhanced DBS check is required for this role.

A criminal record does not necessarily mean that candidates will not be able to take part in the project; this will be dependent on the nature of the crime.

What will Macmillan Cancer Support offer?

- Valuable experience of working in a busy voluntary sector organisation.
- Full induction training and regular opportunities for further training.
- During projects you will have a key Macmillan contact.
- Regular peer support.
- Reimbursement of all out-of-pocket expenses.
- A reference after six months' service.

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