

Community Gatherer Job Description and Person Specification

About the Role

Strike A Light are seeking a Community Gatherer to work with them, Gloucester History Festival, Gloucestershire Archives and Gust on their exciting year-long project about the history of mental health in Gloucestershire.

We are seeking a locally based, sensitive and experienced person to work with us, volunteer group leaders and the community to;

- collect and curate contemporary mental health narratives in small group settings across Gloucester City in Spring 2019
- gather community members with lived experience of mental health to be a part of the immersive theatre performance *MENTAL - a history of* taking place in early September 2019

Project fee: £3000, Freelance role from March - September 2019.

About the Project

MENTAL A CREATIVE YEAR LONG PROJECT EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH IN GLOUCESTER

GUST, Gloucestershire Archives and Strike A Light are delivering a year-long project in Gloucester exploring the history of mental health in the City. *MENTAL* will launch at the History Festival on Saturday 7th September 2019, at Blackfriars Priory in Gloucester.

MENTAL: Gloucester's History.

This exciting and innovative year-long project will work with research teams unearthing stories from the archives that reveal personal and professional tales of mental health through the ages. Alongside this research will be a gathering across the city of contemporary mental health narratives. A volunteer team, managed by the Community Gatherer, will run sessions across the city where community members are sensitively invited to share their personal experiences of mental health or tell hidden stories from within their family.

This gathered material will be used to create a delicate, moving and immersive piece of performance theatre in September 2019 where a cast of professional and community actors will bring these stories to life.

The aim of *MENTAL* is to bring issues of mental health into the foreground, by exploring our past treatment of mental health to enable us to understand our present.

The project team are actively seeking volunteers and performers with lived experience of mental health to work with us. We will work in a mental health friendly way and through our creative process we will be inclusive and tell stories that need to be told.

Person Specification

Essential

Experience of working in a mental health setting Experience of delivering community work
Confident to set up and run group gathering sessions Computer literate
Ability to type up collected stories with accuracy
Excellent communicator, able to sensitively adapt communication style
Based within Gloucestershire, or within easy reach

Desirable

Own transport
Knowledge of local mental health groups
Existing community links within Gloucestershire
Experience of managing volunteers
Passionate about mental health and access
Keen interest in arts and health
Clean DBS check registered with update service

Applications

Please send your CV and a 1-2 A4 page cover letter or 3min video or audio file (which can be taken with smart phone/webcam) explaining why you are interested in the role and what you feel you could bring to it, by **9am on Friday 1st March** to Project Producer, Kate McStraw, at kate@strikealightfestival.org.uk

If you require this document in an alternative format, or wish to submit an application by another means suited to you access requirements, please contact us to discuss.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 5th March 2019, at Gloucestershire Archives.

The role will be offered subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check.