

Information sheet: National Expert Influencing Forum (NEIF)

About Expert Link

[Expert Link](#) is a peer-led organisation with a vision of a world where people experiencing multiple disadvantages are treated as equal partners in decisions made about their lives. We bring expertise in empowering people with lived experience of multiple disadvantages with the skills and opportunities to influence national policy. We believe in **humanity** and the potential of all people. When we come from a place of **honesty**, we can create the change that we want to see and bring **hope** into our world.

The Forum

Expert Link has been funded by Lloyds Foundation to develop a national lived experience influencing forum. The forum, made up of people with lived experience of multiple disadvantages, will give the opportunity to influence policy and practice.

We will aim to influence the following areas that people with multiple disadvantages often face; 1) having access to support when facing crisis or destitution, 2) access to suitable accommodation, and 3) having benefits unfairly taken away. The specifics of the influencing work will be determined by people who have lived these experiences, and who are passionate about bringing about the change needed.

To make positive changes, we envision that members will continue to build upon Expert Links current relationships with policy makers and national government departments.

Activities

Within the forum there will be three sub committees focusing on these three areas. We expect that these sub committees will come together every few months to share experiences, resources, and information.

Alongside meeting with key decision makers, members of the project will inform a range of monthly outputs determined by the sub-committees and designed specifically to influence policy makers. These could include written reports, podcasts and vlogs on specific topics, consultation and inquiry responses.

Valuing people

As well as the opportunity to make a difference within practices and policy in the sector, members of the NEIF will also get initial strengths-based training. We will identify any further training that members could be interested in and that would be of value to them, for example, training around story telling skills to influence policy makers.

After the recruitment process has been completed and members have joined, vouchers will be gifted.

What are the next steps?

If you are interested in taking part, we will be hosting a general information session on Tuesday 20th February 12pm – 1:30pm to give a more detailed overview of what we expect this project to look like as well as answer any questions. After the information session we will be accepting applications from those who are interested and then holding interviews.

If you are interested in attending this session, please email: shannon.johnstone@expertlink.org.uk for an invitation.