

**Mental Health Project Volunteer**

The Roma Support Group (RSG) was the first Roma-led charity to be established in the UK. Since its founding in 1998, the organisation has assisted thousands of Roma families in accessing welfare, housing, education and employment, as well as empowering Roma communities through a wide range of advocacy and cultural programmes.

**Mental Health Advocacy Project:**

 The Roma Support Group’s Mental Health Advocacy Project aims to:

* Improve Roma community members’ access to mental health services
* Empower Roma community members to communicate more openly about mental health issues
* Improve mental health professionals’ knowledge of Roma culture and help them to communicate more effectively with Roma service users.

The mental health advocacy team provides one-to-one support to clients in understanding mental health issues, identifying appropriate mental health services and explaining health needs to professionals. We additionally run monthly peer support group meetings in which project beneficiaries can come together and discuss issues and coping strategies in an open and supportive environment and meet health professionals. To further facilitate our clients’ understanding of mental health, we have created leaflets for service users that explain common mental health issues and outline strategies for seeking out support.

**About the role:**

* Hours: 1 day per week
* Location: Bethnal Green office
* This volunteer role is ideal for students or people with an interest in mental health who would like to expand on their experience of working with migrant communities.

**Role Outline:**

* Liaising with service users;
* Support with peer support sessions (inviting clients to events, interpreting, welcoming clients, minute-taking and photos);
* Translating and creating resources for presentations;
* Research into available support;
* Signposting to different services and information resources.
* Shadowing during outreach visits.

**Skills and Experience needed:**

Essential:

* Interest in mental health and wellbeing.
* Excellent organisational, and verbal communication skills.
* Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Desirable:

* Knowledge and interest in Roma culture.
* Experience working vulnerable adults and children.
* Knowledge of a community language (Romanes, Polish, Romanian, Czech, Slovak, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Ukranian, Russian etc.).

When necessary, Roma cultural awareness training will be provided to volunteers.

Agreed out-of-pocket expenses such as lunch and travel will be reimbursed.

**How to apply:**

To apply for this position you should fill in the [Volunteer Application Form](https://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk/uploads/9/3/6/8/93687016/volunteer_application_form_2022__1_.docx) and email it to Ted Sale, Volunteer Coordinator, volunteering@romasupportgroup.org.uk