

Clarification questions raised for the North Somerset Adult Mental Health Peer Support programme via the VCSE Brokerage Framework – November 2025

The following are responses to clarification questions raised by VCSE organisations either through the online engagement events held on 18th and 26th November or via a direct email to the proposals@bnssgvcsealliance.org email address.

Deadline for clarification questions is midday 28th November 2025. We will add responses to questions raised by VCSE organisations to this document on a weekly basis, up until the deadline.

1. Is there specific mental health training you would like successful organisations to undertake, or is it for the individual organisation to arrange appropriate training?

Organisations who submit proposals should be confident in supporting people with mental health conditions within their existing work. Additional training required can be discussed with the successful organisation(s) post award.

2. Will/can clinical supervision, potentially from the MINT team or another medical professional, be built into the service?

As is the case for other VCSE partners of the MINTs, the organisation delivering the Peer Support Programme will provide management supervision and the MINT teams will provide day to day support and clinical supervision.

3. Is there a minimum and maximum grant value we can apply for?

As outlined in the Information and Guidance document, we are looking for an organisation or partnership of organisations to develop, set up and run the whole peer support offer, working closely with the MINTs and recruit, train and manage peer mentors. Organisations are invited to make proposals and costings that reflect their proposed activities. The total fund available is £123,500 over two years (£61,750 per year), with a further year's budget of £40,000 if the project is extended into year 3.

4. The specification refers to Peer Mentors throughout. Can you please confirm whether you are expecting these to be paid or volunteer staff?

Peer Mentors can be either paid or voluntary staff and this should be outlined in your delivery model and budget.

5.The specification requests goal-based outcomes. In our existing group delivery, we have found other outcomes to be more appropriate, e.g. Reqol-10 and Dialog. Would you accept a proposal for using different outcome measures in the peer mentoring group delivery?

The outcomes measurements for this programme are as outlined in the Information and Guidance document. We would be open to a discussion with the successful organisation(s) as the programme develops to alternative outcome measurements where this would provide additional benefit to impact measurement.

6.It is stated that referrals for 1-1 peer mentoring will come from the MINTs, where individuals are struggling to engage in appointments/services. Could you please give us more information about that demand, e.g. potential client cohort, numbers of referrals?

The North Somerset MINTs support adults (18+) who are referred by their GP and who have low risk but complex mental health needs. The people the MINTs support are generally experiencing a range of challenges that require a holistic, joined-up response beyond the scope of just a single organisation.

A target number of referrals has not been set, and organisations are invited to outline in their proposals a model of delivery and budget against a range.

7.Please can you confirm whether you are looking for organisations to apply for just the peer support or mentoring element, or both?

This opportunity is for an organisation or a partnership of organisations to deliver the whole programme as outlined in the Information and Guidance document.

8.Please can you confirm if there is a target number of participants you are looking for organisations to support?

A target number has not been set, organisations are invited to outline this in their proposal form, based upon their model of delivery.

9.Please can you confirm whether the programme is able to support an individual on multiple occasions or just once.

As outlined in the Information and Guidance document, for the peer mentoring part of the programme, this will usually be for up to 12 sessions over a 3-month period, but if additional support is needed, the peer mentor and referring MINT will agree next steps. The Peer Support Groups will offer medium- to long-term support to individuals.

10.Are you looking to award several smaller grants to multiple organisations or offer all of the funding to one organisation?

As outlined above and in the Information and Guidance document, the opportunity is for an organisation or partnership of organisations to deliver the whole programme. We are not looking to award small size contracts to multiple organisations.

11.Can bus fares for participants be included within our budget?

Reasonable costs can be included within your budget and cover bus fares if this supports accessibility to the programme.

12. Please can you confirm the criteria for the programme?

As outlined in the Information and Guidance document, the programme is to support individuals aged 18 plus in the North Somerset area. The 1:1 Peer Mentoring element will be via referral from the Woodspring and Weston MINTs only, whilst the Peer Support Groups will be open-access. The programme is fully accessible to all communities.

13.Please can you confirm if the training for the Peer Mentors is provided by system partners or whether the successful organisation is responsible for this?

There would be an expectation that the successful organisation(s) would be experienced in providing this type of service and could provide training. Any additionally identified training can be discussed as this is identified. Please outline in your proposal how your organisation would provide training required for the delivery of this type of service.

14. Will the Peer Mentors have to be paid or volunteers or a mixture of both?

As outlined in Question 4, Peer Mentors can be either paid or voluntary staff and this should be outlined in your delivery model and budget.

15. Please can you confirm the data collection requirements and measurement outcomes for this programme.

The information is outlined on pages 3-7 of the Information and Guidance document. These will be further developed as the programme develops and with the successful organisation(s).

16. Will the Peer Mentors be employed by the successful organisation or by the NHS?

Peer Mentors will be paid / voluntary staff within the successful organisation. They will however work closely with the MINTs and other NHS staff as part of an holistic team.

17. Can you clarify if when the guidance refers to hybrid peer support groups this mean that individual meetings should not be hybrid and does not refer to the peer support group offer. eg could this be delivered as regular in person meetings and online meetings?

As outlined in the Information Document the Peer Support Groups should be held either fully in-person or fully online, but not a hybrid combination of the two (i.e. in any one peer support group session there should not be some people in-person and some people online).