

Volunteer Exhibition Assistant

About Mencap Cymru

Mencap Cymru is the voice of learning disability in Wales. Our work supports people to get their voices heard, become more independent, and have a say in the future of their communities. Everything we do is about valuing and supporting people with a learning disability, and their families and carers.

Our vision is a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to and included. We want everyone to have the opportunity to achieve the things they want out of life.

Volunteering with Mencap Cymru is YOUR opportunity to help create a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally.

About this team

Hidden Now Heard is a 3-year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We will collect the stories of 80 people connected to six former long-stay hospital sites across Wales. The Volunteer Exhibition Assistant will assist with and support the temporary exhibition at *Swansea Museum* about *Hensol Castle Hospital*.

The Hidden Now Heard team is made up of the Project Manager, two Project Officers and two Volunteer Coordinators. We're looking for a Volunteer Exhibition Assistant to support the work of Mencap Cymru's Hidden Now Heard project and to help put Mencap's learning disability history issues and the Hidden Now Heard project at the forefront of people's minds.

The temporary exhibition you will support will be based on themes drawn from oral history interviews conducted with former residents and staff from *Hensol*, as well as other sources such as photographs, historical documents and archive film footage.

What will I be doing in this role?

With support from the Project Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator, the Volunteer Exhibition Assistant will communicate with visitors and the public who come to view the exhibition, by explaining more about the project and the exhibition itself.

You will work as part of a team alongside other volunteers, some of whom may have a learning disability, and act as the face of the Hidden Now Heard Project and raise awareness of learning disability history issues. Within this role, volunteers will discuss themes and issues with the exhibition visitors, but also support visitors who may potentially be upset in their responses.

What skills do I need for this role?

- Good verbal communication skills
- An ability to be aware of others feelings and reactions
- Interest in Mencap's work and the Hidden Now Heard Project
- Committed and reliable
- Some knowledge of the process of resettlement of residents from long-stay hospitals
- Some understanding of the issues faced by people who lived and worked in long stay hospitals
- Able to use initiative and work autonomously
- Accepting of others who might be different to yourself
- Good interpersonal skills with a positive approach
- Experience of visiting museums and gallery exhibits
- An interest in heritage and museums
- Willing to work within guidelines and take direction where necessary
- Ability to speak and understand Welsh is desirable (but not essential)

What days and times do I need to be available?

The exhibition will be starting on the 20th of January 2015, so we would hope that you would be available on a weekly basis for 6-8 weeks from this time.

We are looking for volunteers on Tuesday-Sunday to cover the times of 10.00-13.30 and 13.30-17.00.

What can I expect from Mencap?

- A chance to mix with the local community and represent the project
- Relevant training
- Induction to the service and volunteer role
- A settling in period to make sure this is the right role for me
- To feel fully supported in your role
- Agreed out-of-pocket expenses to be reimbursed (e.g. travel)
- The opportunity to work within a diverse team
- The chance to meet new people
- The opportunity to learn new skills
- To feel appreciated and valued for my contribution

An enhanced DBS check may be required by all successful applicants.