

SAMH Role Profile

Job Title: Safeguarding Officer (Lived & Living Experience Panel)
Department: National Suicide Prevention Team
Reports to: Senior Manager, National Suicide Prevention
Direct Reports: N/A

Role Background

In 2022 the Scottish Government (SG) and COSLA launched their joint long-term Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, [Creating Hope Together](#) (2022-2032). This strategy and action plan build on the previous Every Life Matters Strategy (2018-2022), and is implemented by Suicide Prevention Scotland, a delivery collective which includes people working in the public sector, the private sector and third sector, as well as community groups. Importantly, it includes many people with lived experience of suicide.

As part of the implementation of Every Life Matters, the Lived & Living Experience Panel (LLEP) was established in 2019 to ensure our suicide prevention work is guided by people who have been personally affected by suicide or bereavement by suicide. This panel continues to work as part of the Suicide Prevention Scotland delivery collective.

The LLEP is a group of people from across Scotland who have lived experience of suicide. Some are people who have been bereaved by suicide, others are people who have been suicidal in the past, or have been carers for family members or friends living with suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

The purpose of the LLEP is to ensure that the voice of people with experience of suicide is at the heart of the Creating Hope Together strategy. The panel plays a central role in co-producing Suicide Prevention Scotland's programme of work.

SAMH hosts the LLEP on behalf of Suicide Prevention Scotland. The work of the panel is supported by the Lived and Living Experience Panel Coordinator and the Safeguarding Officer.

This role will support the Suicide Prevention Scotland delivery collective to achieve its aim for any child, young person or adult who has thoughts of taking their own life, or are affected by suicide, to get the help they need and feel a sense of hope.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

1. Develop and manage safeguarding processes and activities that support people with lived experience to be directly involved and influence positive change in suicide prevention work.
2. Provide safeguarding guidance and support to LLEP members before, during and after meetings, events and outwith formal activities.
 - There are approximately eight online evening panel meetings per year
 - There are approximately 4 in person whole-day meetings per year
3. Provide support to panel members before, during and after sub-group meetings, where panel members engage in specific activities that support the delivery of Creating Hope Together actions.
4. Hold in person and online support meetings with individual LLEP members.
5. Provide advice, guidance, support and signposting for any panel member in crisis. This will follow SAMH safeguarding procedures, including escalating to appropriate external services when required.
6. Promoting positive wellbeing and self-care through support and wellbeing sessions.
7. Support recruitment, induction and facilitate access to training for all LLEP members throughout their tenure on the panel, in collaboration with the LLEP Co-ordinator.
8. Meet regularly with the LLEP Co-ordinator to discuss safeguarding issues and to plan and develop LLEP ongoing work, including developing panel sessions and resources for both internal and external audiences.
9. Co-facilitate panel meetings with the LLEP Co-ordinator.
10. In collaboration with the LLEP Co-ordinator, provide support to LLEP members who are exiting the panel and, where relevant, support their transition to other areas of related work.
11. Offer wider safeguarding advice and support to Suicide Prevention Scotland Outcome Leads, Delivery Leads, and delivery collective members who engage with the LLEP.
12. Liaise with the National Delivery Lead for Suicide Prevention Scotland on safeguarding.
13. Participate in the Lived Experience Panel Steering Committee quarterly meetings and the quarterly SAMH safeguarding forum.
14. Undertake other reasonable duties that support the aims of SAMH and are consistent with the scope and responsibilities of the role.

Key working relationships and contacts

The Safeguarding Officer (Lived & Living Experience Panel) is a key role to help ensure that LLEP members undertake their roles in a safe environment. This relies on developing and maintaining relationships with a range of national, regional and local stakeholders.

In particular, you will develop excellent working relationships with LLEP members. You will work closely with the LLEP Co-ordinator who is also based at SAMH. You will also develop and maintain excellent working relationships across all members of the Suicide Prevention Scotland collaborative including the National Delivery Lead, Strategic Outcome Leads, Delivery Leads, and Suicide Prevention Implementation Leads.

You will also work closely with SAMH colleagues, particularly those working in suicide prevention at national and local levels, and colleagues within the Public Affairs and Communications team.

Working Environment/ Special Circumstances

Hybrid working with offices based in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Regular evening and weekend working will be required, along with some travel throughout Scotland.

Due to the nature of the role, the postholder must be flexible and responsive, with the ability to adapt priorities at short notice and provide support during emerging or crisis situations as required.

Experience, Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications

Experience

Experience of providing emotional support, guidance and advice to people, with an approach that is compassionate, empathetic and non-judgemental	Essential
Experience of supporting people in crisis and/or mental distress	Essential
Experience of developing, managing and implementing safeguarding procedures	Essential
Experience of planning, hosting and facilitating group work sessions, both online and in-person	Essential
Experience of working collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders and ability to build and sustain positive working relationships	Essential
Experience of suicide prevention work and supporting people with lived of experience of suicide	Desirable

Knowledge & Skills

Ability to work sensitively with people who may be at a vulnerable point in their life	Essential
Solid interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to communicate and build rapport with a wide range of people at different levels, tailoring communication methods as required	Essential
Ability to create and maintain professional working boundaries with panel members	Essential
Understanding and demonstrating the importance of strategies for self-care and wellbeing	Essential
ASIST trained (or willingness to do so)	Essential
Knowledge of trauma-informed care and practice	Essential
Knowledge of Creating Hope Together, Suicide Prevention Scotland, and wider mental health work, in Scotland	Desirable

Qualifications

SAMH values and recognises relevant specialist skills & experience gained outside of education to be just as valuable as a degree. In this post, we're looking for someone with relevant experience in safeguarding, and either a qualification in a related area, or experience of supporting people with lived or living experience.	Essential
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