

## **RECRUITMENT TO LEWISHAM DISABLED PEOPLE'S COMMISSION**

### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS**

#### **Background and welcome from the Chair, Jamie Hale**

Lewisham Council recently published its new Corporate Strategy (a plan of action for all Council services). In this strategy, we promised to set up a Disabled People's Commission. This Commission will be led by disabled people, who will work together to identify barriers faced by disabled people in Lewisham and make recommendations for change.

The Commission will look at disability as created by:

- Physical barriers, this means things that stop people from getting around
- Organisational barriers, these can be barriers that stop people from being able to take part, such as not having accessible information and communication
- Attitudinal barriers, these can be negative ways of thinking about disabled people and how disabled people are treated

The Commission will focus on the experiences and needs of disabled people aged 16 and over.

Jamie Hale has recently been appointed as Chair of the Disabled People's Commission and he says:

Lewisham Disabled People's Commission is being set up by Lewisham Council but will operate independently. Our role is to look at the barriers D/deaf and disabled people face in Lewisham, and the steps the Council and others should take to overcome those barriers.

As part of this work, we are forming a commission of D/deaf and disabled Lewisham residents to guide the process of researching those barriers and exploring how to dismantle them. At the end of this, we will write a report to be presented to Lewisham Council. The commission is currently recruiting D/deaf and disabled people living in Lewisham, who wish to be part of its work. We welcome D/deaf and disabled people from all backgrounds, and explicitly include in that people with mental health problems, neurodivergent people, and people with invisible impairments.

We will be applying a 'social model' approach to our work, meaning we will explore the barriers placed 'on top' of our impairments by society. This enables us to focus on changes to society that would affect our daily lives.

We welcome applicants with all levels of experience and look forward to hearing from you.

#### **Commissioners**

The work of the Commission will be led by Jamie and up to 11 members of the Commission (known as Commissioners) who will review of important research and information and hear from local disabled residents and users of local services before producing a final report with recommendations for change.

Commissioners must be Lewisham residents who identify as disabled people and have a commitment to promoting the rights of disabled people as a whole. They should also have:

- Commitment to the aims of the Commission
- Commitment to equality and diversity

- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

### **Time Commitment**

The Commission will meet between 5 and 7 times during 2020, with each meeting lasting around 2 hours. There may also be opportunities for Commissioners to attend other events if they wish. The majority of these commitments will be at evening meetings.

NB: These positions are not paid but all reasonable expenses will be met.

### **Application process**

If you are interested in being part of the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission, please send a short statement (either in text or video format) about who you are and what you would bring to the Commission to Pauline Richards [pauline.richards@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.richards@lewisham.gov.uk) by the end of Monday 6 January.

If you would like to have an informal conversation regarding the role please call Pauline on 020 8314 8637 who will arrange a time for this.