

Invitation to join the Workforce Expert Advisory Group.



We are looking for some more people to join our Workforce Expert Advisory Group



Introduction



Skills for Care makes sure people have the right skills to work in **social care** in England.



Social care is support you need to look after yourself. Social care workers include support workers, care home workers and social workers.



Our **Experts advisory group** is made up of people with a learning disability and carers. Some of the people are also autistic.



The group works with us and **NHS England** to get the right people into jobs and help them do well.



NHS England trains nurses and other staff in the NHS.

How the Workforce Expert Advisory Group works.



The group thinks about any jobs in health and social care.



It can have a say in how employers:

- Plan jobs and choose people to do a job
- train and support staff to do their jobs well.
- Deal with staff who aren't working well.



You can help the group work in different ways. You can:

- join in with meetings
- answer questions by email.





You will speak for certain groups of people, like:

- people with learning disabilities, including autistic people.
- carers.



You will speak for these people by bringing ideas and suggestions from the other groups you belong to.

These might be:

- self-advocacy groups - these are groups of people that speak up for themselves to make their lives better
- Online groups and networks.





Your advice will help organisations improve their health and social care workforce.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

We will pass the advice on to organisations that work with health and social care staff, like:

- the Department for Health and Social Care - this is a government department



- the Care Quality Commission - this group makes sure all health and social care in England is good



- local councils

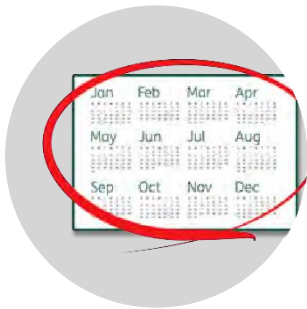


- other important national organisations.



You can claim £20 an hour for your time in meetings.

We can pay if you have any **expenses**. **Expenses** are the costs you have to pay to go to meetings, like travel.



Currently, we have enough money for the group to work for 1 year until about May 2024.



Some things may change over time, like:

- who is in the group
- who leads the group
- how the group works
- how much money the group has
- what the group is trying to do.



How meetings work



In each meeting we think about 2 or 3 different things.

You can send your thoughts and ideas by email or bring them to the next meeting or video call.

We will put all of the ideas together.



Different Skills for Care staff will come to the group for advice. They will tell the group about their work and ask questions.



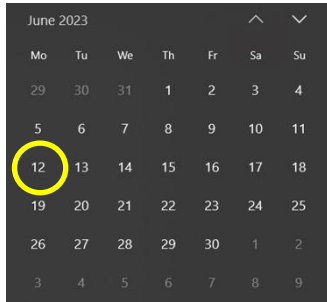
They will come back to the group later to say what they have done with the advice.



You will be allowed to share information from the meeting with other groups you are part of.



Meetings are online using zoom. We try not to use lots of written documents, or complicated words.



They are on the second Monday of each month in the afternoon. They last 2 hours.

We have a short break about half way through.

There is an optional extra meeting in the morning to get ready.



Zoom is a computer programme. We will help you get and use Zoom.



Before each meeting, we will send the groups some questions. We will want you to answer the questions at the meeting.



The meetings are facilitated by someone who has a learning disability.



Your answers will help us to do our work better.



We will tell you what we have done with your answers at a later meeting.

You will be able to get support from the group leaders.



We send out a plan before the meetings, and notes afterwards.

These will both be Easy Read.



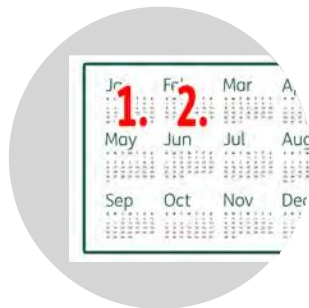
Workshops

A workshop is where we get together to talk about things and do activities.



Our workshops are more fun than normal meetings, and include drama and games.

The workshops haven't happened since 2019 because of COVID-19. We might be able to have a workshop in the next year.



A workshop would last a full day, but it would include lunch, drinks and lots of breaks

New group members



We have some more space in the group for new members. We especially want to more from people who;

- use social care services like residential care homes, supported living or employing your own staff with a personal budget.
- Know about black and minority ethnic communities, and different religions and cultures.
- are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people.
- are younger adults.



How to tell us if you want to join the group



If you would like to join the group, we have some questions we want you to answer.

- You can fill in the form that was sent with this invite, or
- you can record your answers using a voicenote or by video, and email the form or recording to;
innovation@skillsforcare.org.uk
- or you can call us on
0113 241 1279

Please send your response in by Thursday 8th June 2023