

Co-Lab – Peer Researcher Role

We are looking for a Peer Researcher to join Co-Lab to undertake an evaluation of the Isle of Wight Primary Care Mental Health service. Co-lab are specialists in research, evaluation and improvement. We are on a mission to work together with our communities, to develop research and improvement methods that fit the community setting and build evidence to improve community health and social care. To find out more about Co-Lab and our approach, please visit the link below.

[Welcome to Co-Lab: Specialist Research and Evaluation, Consultancy, and Delivery Service](#)

Overview of role

As a peer researcher, you will be joining Co-lab as part of a 6-month development programme to complete an evaluation of the Isle of Wight Primary Care Mental Health service.

During this time, you will receive development to be able to complete the evaluation. This will include training on rapid evaluation, interviewing, data collection, data analysis and writing up the evaluation ready to share as a publication and/or at a conference. You will be part of the Co-Lab team learning from expertise within the team and be fully supported throughout.

Details

The development programme will run for six months, from May 2026 to October 2026. As a Research Associate, you will be expected to work one day per week with Co-Lab. Flexible working is available outside of mandatory training commitments, which will take place on Wednesdays. The role can be undertaken mostly remotely; however, some on-site visits on the Isle of Wight will be required. Payment arrangements will be agreed following a successful application to accommodate individual needs.

Who is eligible to apply?

We are looking for people with who have lived experience of Mental Health Services on the Isle of Wight. You will be asked to demonstrate your interest in research and how you will use the experience of being part of this internship to build community-based research.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email hiowh.colab@nhs.net to express your interest by Sunday 10/5/26. Please answer the following questions in your email which will be considered as an application.

1. Why are you applying for this role (~200 words)
2. What skills and experience can you bring? (~200 Words)
3. How will this opportunity help you? (~100 words)

We will also be recruiting an associate from within the NHS trust to support the evaluation of this programme. You will work together as a team, sharing learning and providing mutual support throughout the evaluation.