



Privately Owned Housing (POH) Advocate (1 year fixed term contract)

Introduction

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) is the only charity in the UK dedicated to raising awareness of economic abuse and transforming responses to it. Our work is informed by a group of women who are 'Experts by Experience'.

Founded in 2017, SEA is a new charity which is already making a significant impact. As a direct result of our work, economic abuse is named within the statutory definition of domestic abuse in the draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

Our four strategic priorities focus on awareness-raising, professional responses, systems change and policy change.

About the Privately Owned Home Advocate role

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has awarded funding to pilot a 'whole housing approach' in London, Cambridgeshire and a site in the North of England. The pilot aims to ensure that the full range of housing-related professionals will be able to recognise domestic abuse and intervene appropriately at an earlier stage.

The pilot is to be developed by a group of specialist housing and domestic abuse organisations, with SEA leading on helping women to maintain privately owned housing. We are therefore seeking to appoint a Privately Owned Housing (POH) Advocate to raise awareness of economic abuse with mortgage providers/brokers, estate agents, conveyancers and the courts and to develop responses which can be used across the UK. This contributes to SEA's work of transforming the response to economic abuse through professional responses and systems change.

Job description

The role of the Privately Owned Home Advocate is to:

- Implement and regularly review the Privately Owned Housing work plan in the three project sites and communicating with project partners they are kept informed of progress;
- Co-ordinate with other delivery members of the Whole Housing team;

- Map key stakeholders including the full range of privately-owned housing-related professionals including estate agents, conveyancers, mortgage brokers, mortgage providers (banks and building societies) as well as their representative bodies i.e. UK Finance, National Association of Estate Agents etc.
- Coordinate relationship building and maintain dialogue with key stakeholders in each project site;
- Train/brief staff working in these areas;
- Draw on the learning of the project to work with SEA's Resources Officer to develop guides for victim-survivors on interacting with mortgage providers etc; and develop best-practice resources for professionals;
- Liaise with the 'mortgage sub-group' of SEA's 'Experts by Experience' Group (EEG) and the EEG more broadly as required;
- Support the development of tools and resources to form part of a Whole Housing toolkit;
- Work with a small caseload of women who are experiencing domestic abuse in the two pilot areas when learning can be transferred more broadly and incorporated into resources;
- Work with SEA's Communications Officer to develop a communications plan in support of this activity;
- Monitor the impact of the Privately Owned project in the three sites;
- Represent SEA while engaging with external stakeholders; and
- Ensure all work is undertaken in accordance with SEA's policies and procedures

Knowledge	
An understanding of issues affecting victims of domestic violence	Essential
Knowledge of the privately-owned housing sector	Essential
An understanding of economic abuse	Desirable
Skills	
Excellent verbal and written communication skills	Essential
Ability to work on a self-supervision basis, prioritise own work and meet deadlines	Essential
Ability to work effectively as a member of a team	Essential
An ability to use initiative, patience and perseverance to help resolve problems.	Essential
Experience	
Experience of facilitating and supporting partnership working	Essential

Experience of providing training	Essential
Experience of working with women who have experienced domestic violence	Desirable
Experience of working within the privately owned housing sector (as an estate agent, mortgage provider etc.)	Desirable
Qualities	
Strong interpersonal communication skills and experience of interacting with a diverse range of people/groups	Essential
A commitment to the values and ethos of SEA	Essential

Terms and conditions

The position of Domestic Violence Debt Advocate is offered full-time (37.5 hours a week) on a 12-month fixed contract. The position may be extended in the future subject to funding. The position is home-based and involves travel to London, Cambridgeshire and a North of England site.

SEA is offering a salary of £28-30,000 and membership of a pension scheme with a contribution of 2 per cent.

This post is open to women only and is exempt under schedule 9 (Part 1) of the Equality Act 2010.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Nicola Sharp-Jeffs (SEA Director)

Nicola.Sharp@survivingeconomicabuse.org / 07551 783193

Application

Please submit your CV with a supporting statement which should address how you meet the knowledge, skills, experience and qualities set out in the job description and person specification to: info@survivingeconomicabuse.org.

The deadline for applications is 22 February. Successful candidates will be notified on 25 February, with interviews taking place in London on 1 March.