**Social Work England Mental Health Forum**

**in collaboration with Inclusion Barnet**

**Participant Information Sheet**

Inclusion Barnet have been approached by Social Work England to partner with them on holding a focus group for Social Work Week 2022. The aim of this is to find out what people with lived experience of mental health issues think about how social work could be better

The forum will be led by members of SWE’s National Advisory Forum with lived experience, with support from SWE and Inclusion Barnet staff members.

We are looking for people who have experience of mental health issues and:

a) Currently have a social worker **or**

b) Have had a social worker in the past **or**

c) Have never had a social worker, but feel that they could have benefitted from the right kind of social worker input at some time in their lives

The focus group will take place on Wednesday 20th April 2022 from 3-4pm, via Zoom. Participants will be offered £20 to compensate them for their time, or a gift of their choice up to the value of £30 (e.g. if there are any concerns about impact on benefits entitlement).

If you would like to take part, please contact Victoria Hart (victoria.hart@socialworkengland.org.uk) directly. Please note, there will be a capped number of attendees for this focus group so places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

All information shared during the focus group will be anonymised and no information regarding the attendees will be kept by Social Work England and there will not be any information which links the information shared to the specific workshop. Emails of attendees will not be retained by Social Work England and the event will not be recorded. Following the workshop, there may be a written record made of part of the conversation, including quotations, but these will not be attributed to any individual.

**FAQ**

**Q: What is Social Work England / What is the NAF?**

A: Social Work England is the regulator for Social Workers within England. It was established in 2019 as a specialist regulator for Social Workers as Social Workers were previously regulated by the HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council). Social Work England is committed to working with people who use social work services.

The National Advisory Forum is a central part of Social Work England and includes people with lived and professional experience as well as social work students. The organisation is committed to coproduction and listening to the voices of people who may access social work services.

**Q: Why is Inclusion Barnet involved?**

A: Social Work England wants to hear the voices of those who have or may need social work input in the future, and to have a conversation about what good social work can look like. By involving people with lived experience, it is possible to ensure that there is a broader understanding of how Social Work England needs to work with the charity sector and improve social work.

**Q: What will you do with the information shared to ensure it has impact?**

After the session, Social Work England will provide a write up the key learning points and share them within Social Work England with the policy teams and senior leadership to ensure they are aware of the feedback and input from people with lived experience of mental illness and to understand what social work needs to look like in this area. They may also write up a blog, although no one will be identified and any feedback that may be published will be anonymised.

Social Work England representatives (Regional Engagement Lead) will to the group to give verbal feedback about what has happened with the information provided, and hope to continue to engage with Inclusion Barnet and the group on an ongoing basis to ensure that there is lived experience input on future consultations.