



## **Coastal Community and Creative Health**

### **Artist Call Out for Lived Experience Creative Workshops in Hastings**

#### **What is the Coastal Community & Creative Health project?**

The Coastal Community & Creative Health project (C3H) is a major three-year research collaboration funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). It is being led by university researchers in partnership with public health and community and creative organisations in Hastings, Blackpool and Weston-Super-Mare. These locations have been chosen because coastal communities are known to have some of the worst health outcomes due to inequalities, and we are focussing on work delivered by community and arts/cultural organisations as these are known to make a positive difference on people's lives

#### **Why are we doing it?**

Due to insufficient funding, the National Health Service is undergoing a major change in the way it works. Tackling health inequalities is one of three main priorities. As a result, the new Integrated Care System (ICS), which consists of the NHS, social care, councils, voluntary sector and others working together, is seeking to work more closely with local partners who have always helped support community health and wellbeing. It is now important to understand ways that these new partnerships can work together effectively to deliver positive outcomes that meet the needs of local people.

#### **What are we doing?**

Our research focuses on three key lived experience areas:

- Young People's Mental Health (age 14-21)
- Bereavement
- Substance Use and Recovery

An important part of the project will be working with a team of local people from Hastings with lived experience in our key focus areas to deliver creative workshops that will explore:

- What community resources exist
- How the participants use those resources
- What barriers there are to equal access
- Where the gaps are

#### **We are seeking visual artists to get involved in our project to deliver a series of CREATIVE WORKSHOPS**

To co-design and deliver a series of creative workshops in Hastings for three small groups (approx. 8 participants each) of people with lived experience in each of our areas of study, i.e.



for young people with experience of mental health challenges, for people with experience of bereavement and for people with experience of substance use and recovery.

We are looking for artists who are highly experienced in community engagement, ideally with some personal understanding of at least one of the key lived experience areas. The artist(s) will initially work with community co-researchers to plan the creative workshops and then lead the facilitation of these workshops. The artist(s) should have a range of creative methods at their disposal to respond flexibly to the participants of the creative workshops. If the workshop participants would like to use a creative method outside an artist's area of expertise, a 'guest' artist may be recruited to co-facilitate session(s), funded through the project. Facilitators will be linked with researchers from the C3H team, who will be available to assist and advise. A support person will be present at each workshop to provide one-to-one support to a participant should they become distressed for any reason or want to take a break.

All workshops will be held in Hastings at suitable venues identified with the Lived Experience co-researcher teams. The final workshop will be a reflective discussion between workshop participants about their experiences and creative outputs. The facilitator and workshop participants will be invited to co-design an exhibition of the work produced, with support from the wider C3H team. A separate budget will be made available to the artist/s for their involvement in the exhibition.

We anticipate the time commitment across each lived experience area to be:

- A day planning (some of this with a team of co-researchers)
- A series of creative workshops totaling 12 hours (number and duration of workshops is flexible and to be decided with the co-researchers in the planning stage)

**Artists will be paid a fee per lived experience area of £1450.** This is equivalent to 6 half days for workshop delivery @ £200/half day, and a fixed fee of £250 for all planning and preparation, including a meeting with the co-researchers. An additional budget of £500 is available for materials per lived experience area.

### **Anticipated timescales**

- Planning: September-October 2025
- Creative workshop delivery: November- December 2025

### **How to apply**

Please email a statement of interest along with a short CV, and three images of your artwork in electronic format to [l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk) with 'Coastal Community and Creative Health' in the subject line.

The statement of interest should be no more than two sides of A4 and include:

- Why you are interested in this opportunity
- Which of the project's lived experience areas(s) you would like to address and why
- What makes you suitable for the role, including:
- Previous experience of working creatively on issue-based work



- What creative methods you use
- Any relevant community engagement

**You will need to have Public Liability Insurance and a current DBS certificate to undertake this work.**

**The deadline for applications is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm.**

**To submit your application email: [l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk)**

**Shortlisted artists for the Lived Experience workshops will be invited to attend an online interview on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2-5pm.**

For further information on this opportunity please contact Lavinia at [l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:l.bertini@bsms.ac.uk)