



CENTRE FOR
FORENSIC HOPE

RESEARCH · LIVED EXPERIENCE · RENEWAL

*Improving lives in forensic communities
through the advancement of hope*

Lived Experience Advisory Group

Role Profile · Lived Experience Member

Version 1.0 · June 2026

Centre For Forensic Hope Ltd · A company limited by guarantee · Non-profit making

Company number: 17294992

"The people closest to the problem hold the most important knowledge."

forensichope.org.uk

About this role

The Centre for Forensic Hope is recruiting members for its Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) — a body composed entirely of people with direct lived experience of forensic settings or incarceration.

This is not a consultation exercise. The LEAG has a constitutionally defined function: to hold the Centre accountable to its own values, from the inside. LEAG members advise the Board directly on whether the Centre's work, language, research design, training, governance, and commitments to people with lived experience are being upheld in practice — not in theory.

A distinct role — not a sub-group of the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board scrutinises the Centre's research quality, professional standards, and engagement with the field. The LEAG scrutinises the Centre itself — whether it is living up to its commitments to the people it exists to serve. The LEAG reports directly to the Board of Directors. Its Chair attends Board meetings as an observer and the Board must respond in writing to every formal LEAG recommendation within sixty days.

Who we are looking for

You do not need formal qualifications or professional experience to apply. What matters is that you have lived experience of forensic settings or incarceration — as someone who has been detained, imprisoned, supervised, or directly affected by the forensic system — and that you are willing to use that experience to shape how the Centre works.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who:

- Have experience of a range of forensic settings — including prisons, secure hospitals, immigration detention, probation, or post-release supervision
- Can speak honestly about whether organisations like ours are getting it right, or not
- Want to be genuinely involved, not just consulted
- Are current Lived Experience Members (LCFH) of the Centre, or are willing to join — LCFH membership is free and is required for LEAG membership

We are committed to ensuring the LEAG reflects diversity of experience — across different settings, backgrounds, protected characteristics, and types of forensic involvement. We actively encourage applications from people who are under-represented in advisory roles.

What the role involves

LEAG members attend meetings, review Centre materials, and give honest advice to the Board. In practice this means:

- Attending four LEAG meetings per year — held online by default, with in-person options where possible and accessible

- Reading and commenting on Centre documents, research materials, training content, and communications — flagging anything that falls short of the Centre's commitments to people with lived experience
- Advising on whether the Centre's language is respectful, its processes are accessible, and its governance is genuinely inclusive
- Contributing to formal LEAG recommendations to the Board where the group agrees something needs to change
- Participating in the election of the LEAG Chair from among the group's members

The role is flexible by design. We understand that participation needs to work around licence conditions, supervision requirements, work, and life. We will make whatever adjustments are necessary to make this genuinely possible for you.

The LEAG Chair

The LEAG elects a Chair from among its members. The Chair has additional responsibilities:

- Attending Board meetings as an observer when matters affecting people with lived experience are under consideration — and speaking at those meetings when invited
- Reporting directly to the Board on behalf of the LEAG not fewer than twice each year
- Liaising with the Advisory Board Chair on matters of shared relevance
- Communicating formal LEAG recommendations to the Board in writing

The Chair role carries additional remuneration. If you are interested in the Chair role specifically, please say so when you get in touch.

What we offer

Remuneration. LEAG members are paid for their time. Rates are set by the Board and will be confirmed with you at the start of your appointment. We are committed to recognising lived experience expertise properly.

Expenses. All reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed — including travel, data costs, and any reasonable costs associated with participation.

Induction and support. Every new LEAG member receives an induction covering the Centre's Constitution, Code of Conduct, Mission & Values, and these Terms of Reference. The Centre Director provides administrative support for the group.

Genuine influence. The Board is required by the Constitution to respond in writing to every formal LEAG recommendation within sixty days — stating whether it accepts, declines, or defers the recommendation, and giving reasons. This is not advisory in name only.

Accessibility. We will make reasonable adjustments to every aspect of participation — format, timing, location, notice periods, and the way information is shared — to ensure that involvement is genuinely possible for you.

Free LCFH membership. Lived Experience Membership (LCFH) of the Centre is required for LEAG membership and is always free. If you are not already a member, we will help you join.

Tenure

LEAG members are appointed for a term of one year. The Board considers reappointment before each term expires and there is no limit on the number of terms you may serve. If the Board decides not to reappoint, it will tell you why and give you an opportunity to respond before the decision is finalised.

You can resign at any time by writing to the LEAG Chair (or, if you are the Chair, to the Board). Full details of tenure and the removal process are set out in the LEAG Terms of Reference, available at forensichope.org.uk.

How to express interest

You can register your interest using the form on the Centre's website at forensichope.org.uk. The form asks for your name, email, and a short description of your background and why you are interested in joining the LEAG. There is no right or wrong answer and no minimum length.

If you would prefer to write to us directly rather than use the form, you can contact us at **enquiries@forensichope.org.uk**. If you are not yet a Lived Experience Member of the Centre, you can join for free at forensichope.org.uk — just select Lived Experience membership. We aim to respond within seven days.

Your privacy

You will not be asked to disclose your conviction history, diagnosis, or the details of your forensic involvement as part of this process. Lived Experience Membership is granted on self-declaration. Your privacy is protected by the Centre's Code of Conduct and Constitution, which prohibit any member or staff from disclosing another person's lived experience status without their consent.

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