



Volunteer Role Description

FS Editorial Group Volunteer

GMFA's vision and mission statement:

Vision – GMFA wants a gay community where individuals are able to make informed choices about their health, and a society that embraces equality and respects the right of people to make informed choices.

Mission – Improving gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives.

Role

To work with the FS Project Manager and other editorial group volunteers to input on the content of FS.

Specific responsibilities

As part of the editorial group: to have a clear understanding of the magazine's aims; to develop ideas and concepts that meet the aims and fit into the style of the magazine.

Experience and Requirements

Editorial group volunteers must have a basic understanding of how magazines work. Volunteers must have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of FS, who the magazine's target audience is, the style and attitude of the magazine and how that is translated into the content (ie what is appropriate and not appropriate for inclusion). This information will be part of a briefing that will be given prior to a volunteer's first meeting.

Volunteers must be able to work productively within groups.

Health promotion, creative thinking, copy writing and editing skills are all useful though not essential requirements.

Commitment required

The editorial group meets approximately six times a year. Although attendance is not compulsory at all meetings, volunteers will be expected to honour any commitments that they make to the group and should aim to attend as many meetings as possible. The frequency of meetings is variable depending on need.

Authority

When possible, the editorial group works by consensus so authority will normally be with the editorial group.

Benefits

Working as part of the editorial group will develop a range of health promotion and media skills and increase knowledge.

Potential Frustrations

An individual's ideas may not be used.

The group may not always agree with your point of view.

Potential Satisfactions

FS is a high-profile health intervention. 94% of men who've read FS say they would like to read it again. 17,000 copies are distributed 6 times a year to over a hundred gay venues, health centres and youth groups around London and throughout the UK.