



Volunteer Role Description

Writer - FS

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 volunteers to write content for FS.

Specific responsibilities

To have a clear understanding of the aims of the magazine; to write with those aims in mind; to write in the appropriate style and voice for the magazine.

To keep to the brief given to you by the editorial group.

To submit copy on time, of the correct length, and in the appropriate format.

Experience and Requirements

FS writers must be able to write to a high standard and in keeping with the style of the magazine. Volunteers are required to submit a writing sample to demonstrate their abilities.

Volunteers must be able to work productively with the editor and other volunteers.

Specific experience as a journalist is preferable, but not required. Knowledge of health promotion is useful, though not essential.

Commitment required

Once a volunteer has committed to an assignment, he/she will be expected to complete it within the guidelines and by deadline or give notice at least 72 hours before if he/she cannot.

Authority

Volunteers have the authority to explore and research articles as appropriate to the brief and within the boundaries of good journalistic practice. The Project Manager has control over editing and inclusion of submitted pieces.

Benefits

Writing for FS can help develop a range of health promotion and media skills and increase knowledge.

Potential Frustrations

An individual's ideas may not be used.

Copy may be returned for re-writes or in rare cases, not used at all.

Even if you are a technically competent writer, if you cannot adapt your style to FS, your work will not be used and/or you won't receive writing assignments.

Potential Satisfactions

FS is a high-profile health intervention. 94% of gay 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 throughout the UK. Writing for FS you will feel that you are making a difference in improving the health and lives of gay men in London.