

## **Call for proposals**

### ***Voices and me: Zine workshops for young people who hear voices***

**Submission deadline:** Friday 11 June 2021, 12pm

**Available fee:** £2500 + £500 to cover any materials and postage

[Hearing the Voice](#) at Durham University is collaborating with [Voice Collective](#) to run a series of online zine workshops for young people (16–25 years) who hear voices others don't. The zines produced through the workshops will be digitised and hosted on [Understanding Voices](#) – a website for voice-hearers, their families and mental health professionals.

We are currently seeking an individual or group to facilitate the online workshops and support the young people to produce zines that explore their experiences of hearing voices and how voice-hearing intersects with other aspects of their identity. Ideally, the zine facilitator(s) will have personal experience of voice-hearing or be part of a partnership or group in which lived experience is represented.

The funding for this project comes from a prize awarded to Hearing the Voice by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Wellcome Trust.

## **About Hearing the Voice**

Hearing the Voice (HtV) is a nine-year multidisciplinary research project that combines insights from the humanities and sciences to provide a better understanding of the experience of hearing voices. The project is currently funded by a Wellcome Trust Collaborative Award in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Voice-hearing is an important aspect of many people's lives. It is an experience that can be distressing and upsetting, but also positive and meaningful. The project examines this experience from a range of different perspectives, including anthropology, cognitive neuroscience, history, linguistics, literary studies, medical humanities, philosophy, psychology and theology. Researchers in the project work closely with voice-hearers, clinicians and academics from around the world.

More information about Hearing the Voice can be found here: [www.hearingthevoice.org](http://www.hearingthevoice.org)

## **About Voice Collective**

Voice Collective is a UK-wide, London-based project that supports children and young people who hear voices, see visions or have other 'unusual' sensory experiences and beliefs. They also offer support to parents and family members, and training for youth workers, social workers, mental health professionals and other supporters. Their work is funded by BBC Children In Need and the John Lyon's Charity.

More information about Voice Collective can be found on their website:

<http://www.voicecollective.co.uk>

## **Brief**

This commission invites an individual or group to facilitate a series of zine-making workshops for young people who hear voices, in collaboration with Hearing the Voice and Voice Collective. Ideally, the zine facilitator(s) will have personal experience of voice-hearing or be part of a partnership or group in which lived experience is represented.

The aim of the workshops is to provide the young people who participate with a creative opportunity to explore their experiences of hearing voices. We are particularly keen to give young people the chance to explore how voice-hearing might relate to or intersect with other aspects of their life and identity (e.g. their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity). The exact number and structure of the workshops is to be determined by the zine facilitator(s), but we envisage that the series would include an initial workshop to introduce the participants to zines, zine-making and the overarching theme of the workshops, followed by 3-4 online workshops in which the young people are supported to produce zines. For practical and financial reasons, we expect that the workshops will aim to involve a maximum of 12 young voice-hearers.

We believe that it is important that the zines reflect the diversity of voice-hearing experiences and of the people who hear voices. Ensuring that the zines depict a variety of different perspectives and experiences will be an important aspect of the project.

The role is ideally suited to a UK-based individual or group who:

- Has experience in making zines and/or an understanding of zines as a mode of exploring madness and mental health
- Has personal experience of hearing voices
- Has experience of working with vulnerable young people, preferably using creative methods and arts-based approaches
- Feels confident talking to individuals and groups of young people about voice-hearing experiences and how they might impact on or intersect with other aspects of their life and identity
- Is interested in a range of experiences, and has the commitment and ability to explore and represent this diversity in the content they develop

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The Hearing Voice Communications, Impact and Engagement Lead, Dr Victoria Patton, will be a key point of contact for the group or individual appointed and will work closely with them to make sure that the project runs to the agreed timescale, that the zines produced are clearly authored by young people who hear voices, and that the zines are digitized in an engaging manner and in a format that is suitable for upload and display on the Understanding Voices website. Hearing the Voice will provide administrative support to help

with publicity for the zine workshops and the recruitment of participants. There is an additional budget to provide up to 12 young voice-hearers with a voucher of their choice in appreciation for their participation in the workshops.

Another key point of contact for the group or individual appointed will be Fiona Malpass, Senior Development Worker at Voice Collective. Fiona or another representative from Voice Collective will attend the zine making workshops in order to provide support for the young people who are participating. Voice Collective will also assist with the recruitment of participants through their networks.

Those submitting proposals for the commission should be aware that, if they are appointed, they will be asked to:

- Provide information about the workshops to assist with advertising and recruitment, and to answer questions from prospective participants
- Co-ordinate and facilitate all workshops associated with the production of the zines via a suitable online platform (e.g. Zoom). This will include arranging suitable dates/times, all communication with participants after the initial recruitment, and (if necessary) preparation and postage of workshop materials to participants.
- Secure written consent to include digital versions of the zines produced through the workshops (these may be anonymised) on the *Understanding Voices* website from all content contributors.
- Provide, or be prepared to undertake, DBS checks required for individuals working with vulnerable young people.

### **Timescales**

- Submission of proposals – Friday 11 June 2021
- Award of commission – by Friday 25 June 2021
- Participant recruitment – July 2021
- Workshops take place – August 2021
- Review of final zine drafts & upload to Understanding Voices – by mid-September 2021

### **How to apply**

Proposal submissions should be sent to Victoria Patton (Communications, Engagement and Impact Lead, Hearing the Voice) at [victoria.patton@durham.ac.uk](mailto:victoria.patton@durham.ac.uk) by **12pm on Friday 11 June 2021**.

Proposals should comprise:

- A cover letter including a statement of the individual or group's understanding and experience of voice-hearing and information on their suitability to undertake the commission

- CV or similar for the individual or group applying to carry out the commission, highlighting any relevant experience or past projects which evidence arts-based work with young people and/or zine production
- A statement (maximum 2 sides of A4) explaining how the individual or group would propose to go about working on the commission, including a breakdown of plans and activities for each workshop, any necessary materials or additional support that is required, and plans for digitisation of the final zines.
- A detailed breakdown of costs. Please note that the available fee must cover all time and materials for the commission, including any relating to preparation, workshop facilitation, and/or communication with young voice-hearers and those who support them.

### **Informal enquiries ahead of submission**

For any enquiries ahead of submission please contact **Victoria Patton** (Hearing the Voice, Durham University) at [victoria.patton@durham.ac.uk](mailto:victoria.patton@durham.ac.uk).