



RECRUITMENT PACK - May 2025

RE: Post of Carer Advocate (CAMHS):
Beechcroft

Closing date: Friday 20th June at 3.00pm

Welcome to CAUSE

Foreword from the CEO

Dear Applicant,

*Thank you for your interest in the **Carer Advocate** position based at Beechcroft within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), which supports the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people up to the age of 18. This is a meaningful opportunity to join CAUSE's peer lead advocacy team, providing vital support to families and carers of young people receiving inpatient treatment through CAMHS.*

In this role, you will work directly with families of children admitted to Beechcroft, the regional CAMHS inpatient unit, providing practical and emotional support during some of the most difficult times they may face. You'll play a vital part in bridging communication between families, service providers, and external stakeholders, ensuring carers are informed, empowered, and heard.

This is not just a job, it's a chance to bring lived experience into professional advocacy, helping families feel less alone and more confident in navigating complex systems. If that resonates with your own values and experience, we would be delighted to receive your application.

Warm regards,



Emma O'Neill
CEO, CAUSE

About CAUSE

Who We Are

CAUSE is a regional mental health charity dedicated to supporting families, partners, and friends caring for someone with serious mental illness.

What Makes Us Unique

Our advocacy services are delivered by people with lived experience. We believe peer lead support offers unique insight, builds trust, and leads to better outcomes for families.

Our Mission

To ensure carers are heard, supported, and equipped with the tools and confidence to advocate for themselves and their loved ones.

Job Description

Job Title	<i>Carer Advocate (CAMHS) Beechcroft</i>
Location	Beechcroft Belfast with some community-based work
Hours	21 hours per week
Contract	Permanent (subject to ongoing funding)
Salary	£26,158 per annum pro-rate (based on 35-hour FT week), £15,695 working 21hrs per week
Accountable to	Head of operations

Main Purpose of the Job

This role is central to supporting the families and carers of young people admitted to Beechcroft. As a peer advocate, you will provide practical and emotional support, help families prepare for care planning and discharge, and contribute to service improvement through partnership with CAMHS and the wider community.

You will work closely with Beechcroft's multidisciplinary team, family therapists, and VOYPIC (advocacy for young people), ensuring a joined-up and carer-centred approach to advocacy and support.

Summary of Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide emotional and practical support to parents and carers of young people in CAMHS.
- Assist families in representing their needs and concerns, including in advance of tribunal appeals.
- Attend and support families during discharge planning meetings.
- Work collaboratively with family therapists based at Beechcroft to provide coordinated support.
- Deliver educational support groups to carers on-site at Beechcroft.
- Work one evening a week in Beechcroft.
- Promote CAUSE's services to families, carers, and professionals.
- Collaborate with CAMHS teams and other service providers to enhance carer engagement.
- Support CAUSE's Helpline as part of a rota and contribute to outreach efforts.
- Participate in conferences, workshops, and events to raise awareness and support learning.
- Represent CAUSE and carers in service planning and development forums.
- Stay informed about developments in mental health, carer rights, and related policy areas.
- Contribute to service monitoring and evaluation.
- Maintain accurate records and provide reports aligned with work plans.
- Ensure all activities comply with legal, safeguarding, GDPR, and organisational policies.
- Undertake appropriate travel and work flexibly, including some evenings and weekends.

Personnel Specification

Essential Criteria

- Personal experience caring for a child or adolescent with mental ill health, OR a loved one with serious mental illness.
- A qualification (e.g. Social Work, Health and Social Care, Counselling, Community Work, Business Development, Degree, BTEC, HND, HNC etc).
- Recognised mental health professional or personal development training (e.g. recovery college courses).
- Knowledge and understanding of mental health and carer issues.
- Experience supporting or advocating for people in emotionally complex situations.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with confidence in advocacy roles.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with professionals and peers.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and digital communication tools.
- A full driving licence or access to transport during working hours.
- Ability to work flexible hours to meet service needs – including 1 evening per week. (most likely Thursday evening).

Desirable Criteria

- Post-secondary education or relevant training in mental health, advocacy, or family support.
- Experience delivering educational or support group sessions.
- Familiarity with CAMHS, the health and social care system, or the voluntary sector.
- Understanding of carer rights, mental health tribunals, and related structures.

Working Practices

- Act as a positive ambassador for CAUSE and uphold our values at all times.
- Advocate for unpaid carers in mental health settings and beyond.
- Maintain high standards in safeguarding, data protection, equality, and health & safety.
- Participate in personal development and training activities as required.
- Contribute to team meetings, planning sessions, and evaluation processes.

Our Values

As a representative of CAUSE, you will be expected to promote our core values of:

Compassion – providing empathetic, understanding support to carers.

Empowerment – helping families find their voice and navigate systems.

Integrity – being transparent, trustworthy, and respectful in all you do.

How to Apply

You can request or submit your application by:

Email: info@cause.org.uk

Phone: 028 9065 0650

Post: CAUSE, Unit 2 Lesley Office Park, 393 Hollywood Rd, Belfast, BT4 2LS

Deadline for applications:

Friday 20th June 2025 by 3pm

CAUSE is proud to be an equal opportunities employer and actively welcomes applications from all backgrounds. Reasonable adjustments will be made to support applicants with disabilities. Flexible working arrangements may be considered.

