

Better Work Network Lived experience steering group

Background While London has boomed in recent years, not all Londoners have shared in this success. In 2019, one in five Londoners (905,000 people) were paid below the Living Wage, and one in nine were in insecure work. Some Londoners, including women, young people and BAME communities, are more likely to face low pay and insecure work. In recent months, the Coronavirus pandemic has triggered an unprecedented spike in unemployment. Londoners in low paid and insecure work have been disproportionately impacted by the economic crisis, which risks exacerbating pre-existing and long-standing inequalities.

The project The Better Work Network is a policy and practice-based initiative which aims to support progression from low pay and improve job quality for all. The network is delivered in partnership by Learning and Work Institute and Trust for London. There is a pressing need to better understand the challenge of low pay and insecure work in the capital, to understand what makes a difference, to convene and coordinate stakeholders, and to advocate with low paid Londoners for the change they need.

The aims of our work over the next two years are to:

1. Co-ordinate and grow the network and put the voices of low paid-Londoners at the heart of the debate about job quality and progression.
2. Share evidence to help practitioners improve services and help policymakers recognise the importance of better work.
3. Influence and advocate for changes in policy and practice that could make a difference for low paid Londoners.

How can you get involved? We want the voices of low paid Londoners to be at the heart of this project. We want them to tell us about their experiences. We would also like them to be directly involved in identifying solutions – the changes that they would like to see – and in influencing key people, such as local councillors, MPs, and policymakers.

We're looking for a maximum of 10 individuals to contribute to the project. We're able to offer each individual a £30 incentive after each meeting.

Taking part in the steering group will involve:

- Meeting online four times over the course of two years.
- Working with the L&W project team to identify 'policy solutions'.
- Contributing to national awareness raising activity.

To talk about the project, please contact Roisin Sheehy, senior external affairs officer at L&W – roisin.sheehy@learningandwork.org.uk