

# Volunteer SMART Facilitators

The UK SMART Recovery Application Process

## Why has SMART changed the policy about meeting facilitators?

SMART has a legal responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure our volunteers are appropriate people to run meetings. The safety and wellbeing of meeting participants is our priority.

## Why do people have to apply – isn't SMART all about mutual-aid?

Mutual Aid is part of what SMART is about. We also have our website with resources, videos, on-line meetings and webinars, as well as our on-line training.

SMART for Life and Getting SMART are on-line training courses for anyone interested in learning about the SMART Programme in support of their own recovery, or the recovery of a family member or loved one. They are freely available to anyone: no enrolment is needed.

The SMART Facilitator training course is specifically for those who want to facilitate a SMART meeting. SMART Recovery provides trained and vetted volunteers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of meeting participants.

People who Facilitate groups, as a volunteer with any treatment service (or partner agency) will usually have been through a similar application process to this one. This process relates specifically to those people who volunteer to Facilitate SMART meetings, in the community and on behalf of UK SMART Recovery.

## Won't DBS or PVG checks stop people applying?

We hope not; we understand that some people may have gone through the criminal justice system in the past. What we value is honesty from applicants, so if there is a conviction which will show up on a DBS/PVG check please let us know. Your lived-experience is important and previous convictions are not necessarily a barrier to being approved as a SMART volunteer.

We appreciate confronting past actions and the resulting consequences can be difficult. However, many employers require DBS or PVG checks, getting over this hurdle with support from SMART can help with future volunteering or employment opportunities.

The results of any DBS/PVG checks are only seen by our Executive Director or Business Manager and the contents are treated as confidential.

Anyone with a conviction for offences that include sexual crimes or violence against children, or vulnerable adults, will not be considered as suitable to volunteer with SMART Recovery.

**Angie King**

January 2019

Executive Director

UK SMART Recovery