

## Speakers' Corner Submission Criteria

The Speakers' Corner on our website has been developed to give you, the people of Derby, a place to share your thoughts, experiences and expressions. We hope it will be a space for creative outlet, whilst raising awareness of mental health and breaking the stigma too many people face. As a responsible organisation, we need to ensure that material we advertise on our website is appropriate to share with a wide audience. For this reason, we have developed a set of submission criteria, which aims to be least restrictive whilst respecting the needs of our community. Submissions, including all forms of media, will need to meet these criteria to be considered appropriate for publication on our website. We hope you find the below criteria helpful in guiding your creative process and look forward to hearing from you!

### Submission Criteria

#### 1. Equality and Diversity

We are committed to treating people from all walks of life with dignity and respect. Submissions must respect the Equality Act (2010) and be non-discriminatory, directly or otherwise, of people based on their age, disability, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We actively promote a celebration of diversity and welcome submissions that share information about one's own culture or background, as a way of educating us and the community we serve.

#### 2. Respect

Submissions must be respectful in nature and non-derogatory of any other person, group of people or services. Whilst critique of a certain perspective may be appropriate, this must be done in a tactful and curious manner. We will not publish any profanity or swear words.

#### 3. Anonymity

It is the choice of the submitter whether or not they would like their name to be published and if they have used our or other services. However, we will not publish certain personal information, such as addresses, contact numbers or email addresses. Social media handles (e.g. Twitter) can be advertised if the submitter prefers. We will also not post information about third parties, as to protect their right to privacy.

#### 4. Apolitical

We will decline submissions of a political nature (e.g. referencing politicians, political parties, trade unions or politically affiliated groups). As a service, we are obliged to remain impartial in political matters. As it would be impractical to share everyone's

diverse political perspectives, the only way to achieve this is to remain neutral in our stance. We will also not post criticisms of any specific services, such as care teams or charities.

#### **5. Safeguarding**

We will not post any material which is likely to cause distress to our readers. This might include detailed accounts of harm, anything which infers someone's risk or where a current safeguarding issue might otherwise be indicated.

Please note that whilst we will not change the content of any submission, we will run a spell and grammar check to ensure it is legible to our readers. We also retain the right to decline other submissions as we consider appropriate and will communicate the reasons for this with you. Submission of your document/media means you agree to the criteria set out above.