

Agreement note: This agreement has been drafted following discussion with the HSE as the SLA holder.

Valuing the Voice of People with Lived Experience and Their Supporters.

Purpose:

To enhance the meaningful participation of individuals with lived experience and their supporters in the Reference Group, ensuring their contributions are recognised, respected, and valued through appropriate financial and practical support.

Approach:

1. Stipends for Participation:

- Members of the Reference Group with lived experience or acting as supporters will receive:
 - €100 for each full-day meeting.
 - €50 for each half-day (2.5 hours plus) meeting.

2. Travel and Associated Expenses:

- Travel expenses incurred by members to attend meetings or events will be reimbursed in line with the Shine Travel Policy for Volunteers.

3. Implementation:

- Payments will be processed by the Host Agency (Shine) following attendance confirmation.
- Claims for travel expenses should adhere to the procedures outlined in the Shine Travel Policy, including submission of receipts where applicable.

Rationale:

This addendum reflects Shine's commitment to valuing the expertise and lived experiences of service users, family members, and carers by reducing financial barriers to participation and ensuring their voices shape the implementation of mental health initiatives.

Note:

- Payment of a stipend does not comprise a contract of employment.
- Payment is not classified as a grant or training allowance under any government education or employment scheme.
- This payment may be assessed as taxable income for the purposes of social welfare entitlement or tax.
- Declaration of income is the responsibility of the recipient.
- Shine cannot provide guidance on individual tax or social welfare matters, and Reference Group members should contact DEASP and/ or Revenue should they need any guidance.