



CAMBRIDGE ACORN PROJECT

Environmental/Structural Training Programme:

Aim: To recruit, train and maintain (through supervision) a cohort of volunteers in our 'structural' model of work. The aim of this work will be to equip these individuals to undertake direct casework with vulnerable families to help them address 'structural' issues, namely environmental conditions which may be causing them some distress – for example, a recent survey we have conducted identified money issues as a leading cause of mental health issues in families although there is no diagnostic criteria for such distress, despite its clear and obvious prevalence. This will enable the volunteers to do the following:

- Write grant applications with families
- Fill-in forms with families
- Do basic advocacy and liaison work
- Support individuals at PIP hearings
- Support individuals at other professional meetings
- Signposting according to our current roadmap
- Referrals on to specialist CAB caseworker

This will involve 4 training sessions (typically run over a morning, 9:30-12:30):

- 1. Introduction to Cambridge Acorn Project 'Structural' Model**
- 2. Universal Credit and Benefits; using a benefits calculator**
- 3. PIP**
- 4. Signposting and road-mapping**
- 5. Safeguarding**



