



### **Objectives for the integration of peers:**

**There are various objectives with regards to the incorporation of peers and the contributions that this role can offer.**

**They concern the development of its own practice, realistic visions of social interventions, accompanying the adaptation process...**

**"Offer horizontal and empathetic support to accompany situations of change"**

It's understand that the period of adaptation that a person needs when they move into housing has to be done at their pace, given that it requires a big effort to adapt to a new environment. To be able to understand this effort better, the comprehension of a peer can be vital as they understand perfectly well what it takes to make this adaption.

**"Provide the service user with a mentor who can accompany them in possible times of crisis"**

When a person leaves the street to live in an apartment, various factors can arise which may provoke new crises. The peer can work alongside the service user to help them through, once again being conscious of all the effort required by the service user during these moments of stress, and can help them on their path, which is decided between the person and their support team.

**"Actively participate in an exchange of life experiences along educational pathways"**

The peer can transmit his/her life experience whenever they feel it necessary. Being able to provide experience which served him/her is a vital tool, always

taking into account that no two processes are the same and everybody evolves at their own pace.

**“Strengthen the professional role still not established in all organizations, based on the multiple advantages that a peer can have”**

In some organizations peers have been operating for years now, in fact it's a requirement to be able to work in some therapeutic communities, where group leaders know first-hand what a person is feeling throughout their process. It's curious that in other organizations there is a reluctance to incorporate peers within support teams. Thanks to the Housing First model, the many advantages of peers are being seen.

**“Promote a multidisciplinary team approach with different, complementary practices”**

Each professional has his/her way of carrying out educational interventions and the peer has to develop his/her own in order to complement the rest of the team. If a basic educational tool based on experience is not taken into account, then vital components of the praxis are lost.

**“Provide the peer with training that combines theory with ongoing practical experience so that he/she has the necessary tools to carry out their role”**

In order to forge their own manner of carrying out social interventions, it's essential they become aware of the different praxis of their colleagues. For this reason a training period which offers plenty of scope to accompany other professionals is desirable.