

Versus Arthritis

Volunteer Role Description

Role title:	Volunteer Engagement Group Member (VEG).
Staff contact:	Head of Nation (in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales) or Head of UK Delivery (in England).
Location:	Each role is nation specific, and meetings will be held either online or in person within each nation (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales).
Time commitment:	4 quarterly meetings per year, with an initial term in the role of 3 years. Some time is required ahead of each meeting to read the papers provided.

How you will make a difference

At Versus Arthritis, we envisage a future free from Arthritis. We won't rest until everyone with arthritis has access to the treatments and support, they need to live the life they choose.

Volunteer Engagement Groups (VEG) are experienced, engaged, and supportive individuals, highly committed to the work of Versus Arthritis. As volunteers and people with arthritis they support the achievement of our vision of a future free from arthritis.

Purpose of Volunteer Engagement Groups:

“We exist to be a representative voice of people impacted by arthritis to inspire and influence the work of Versus Arthritis and achieve our common ambitions within each nation and across the UK” (ToR, 2020).

We are looking for someone who

- Is aware of arthritis and the impact it has on people's lives.

- Is confident and able to work collaboratively and within the spirit of our values: making voices heard, whilst valuing others and challenging considerately.
- Has a desire to effect positive change for people with commitment to Versus Arthritis' vision of a future free from arthritis.
- Has willingness and ability to meet the expected time requirement.
- Appreciates the needs of Welsh language users where appropriate.
- Has effective communication skills.
- Can support and empower adults experiencing arthritis without giving advice.
- Is caring, sensitive and empathetic to all people regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, faith and culture.
- Is confident, positive and enthusiastic.

What you will be doing

- Ensure that the voice of volunteers and people impacted by arthritis is heard.
- Actively contribute to discussions, shaping agendas and act as a critical friend to Versus Arthritis.
- To be actively engaged with the local network of branches, groups, communities and other volunteers.
- To be an ambassador and help inspire and influence the work of Versus Arthritis. To promote strategy, ambitions, and key messages, both internally and externally, including championing the Welsh Language across the organisation, where appropriate.
- Act where necessary to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

What we ask of you

- Follow Versus Arthritis' Volunteering and Involvement, Confidentiality and Data Protection policies and act within our values and behaviours.
- Willingness to keep up to date with the charity's services and activities.

- Group members are asked to join four meetings a year, either online or face-to-face. Some time is required ahead of each meeting to read the papers provided and to prepare.
- Group members are asked to take on an initial term of three years.

Practicalities

- You will speak to a staff contact to talk through the role and agree if this is the role for you.
- This role will bring you into contact with vulnerable adults and is subject to safer recruitment practices. Therefore, we will ask you to provide the names of two people, one of which must have known you for at least two years, who can offer a reference for you; this could be a colleague or a friend but not a family member.

Before you begin

- You will be required to complete the organisation induction and all mandatory training for the role.

What you will get in return

- Induction into your role.
- Knowledge that you are helping to influence change for people living with arthritis.
- Ongoing support and supervision from a named member of staff who will support you with practical guidance.
- Reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses (see the expenses policy).

Safeguarding and Criminal Record Check

Versus Arthritis is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. During the recruitment process we will undertake safer recruitment practices and relevant checks to ensure

applicants are suitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This role DOES NOT require a Criminal Record check.

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