

# Versus Arthritis

## Volunteer Role Description

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<b>Role title:</b>	Changemaker Volunteer.
<b>Staff contact:</b>	Nation Policy and Engagement Manager.
<b>Location:</b>	Campaigning activities can be face to face, online or over the telephone, depending on which activity suits your strengths and passion and circumstances.
<b>Time commitment:</b>	This is a flexible role. Volunteers can choose which activities they engage with, how much time they contribute and when they are active. We would also expect you to attend regular support/planning/update meetings with the Policy and Engagement Manager.

### 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.

Change Maker Volunteers are part of a strong and engaged network of people with experience or understanding of arthritis.

Working with our dedicated Campaigns Team, volunteers will raise awareness of arthritis and bring about change through activities to influence decision makers.

Campaigning is flexible and comes in many forms. Campaigning activity might include:

- Writing to and meeting politicians/decision makers.
- Collaborating with staff to engage with media.

- Social media and other campaigns (signing petitions, sharing your personal story and/or finding others who will).
- Sharing campaign and information materials.
- Providing talks to small groups.
- Providing a patient perspective in health and social care at events or during consultations/focus groups.

### **We are looking for someone who**

- Is aware of arthritis and the impact it has on people's lives.
- Understands the need to bring about change through campaigning and has the enthusiasm and desire to make a difference. Previous experience of campaigning is not necessary.
- Has effective communication skills.
- 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**

- Influencing decision makers to make arthritis a higher priority.
- Advocating for improved services and upholding rights for people with arthritis.
- Supporting and engaging in Versus Arthritis campaigns.
- Gathering local insights and experiences to inform Versus Arthritis policies.

### **What we ask of you**

- Follow Versus Arthritis' Volunteering and Involvement, Confidentiality and Data Protection policies and act within our values and behaviours.
- You will need access to a telephone and or a device with access to the internet for us to stay connected with you.
- Willingness to keep up to date with the charity's services and activities.

- When sharing views externally, make it clear the views you share are your own rather than necessarily representative of the charity's position (unless sharing charity policy material/positions).
- Never offer medical advice or opinion.

### **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 from the Policy and Engagement Manager who will provide you with all the information and resources you need to confidently undertake your chosen campaigning activities.
- Training, resources and support to confidently understand and report safeguarding issues.
- Access to ongoing support and supervision.
- Reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses (see the expenses policy).

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## **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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