

Versus Arthritis

Volunteer Role Description

- Role title:** Young People's Panel Volunteer.
- Staff contact:** Young People and Families Manager/Worker.
- Location:** In your local area/region and online.
- Time commitment:** Flexible, depending on when/where the meetings/training/events are held and would be discussed with you.
- Time can vary but we hope you can commit to at least one year in the role. Taking part in one hour monthly online meetings, and up to three face-to-face meetings a year in the UK. This could include travel and overnight stays, occasional activities between meetings, induction and essential training.

How you will make a difference

The Young People's Panel is a space for young people aged 16-24 living with arthritis or a rheumatology condition to shape and take part in the support, campaigning, and research work of Versus Arthritis – helping us deliver our mission.

The panel raise awareness that children and young people live with arthritis too, advocating for changes that will improve the lives of people living with arthritis. You will reach out to and work with children, young people and their families, to understand the needs of and provide support to all young people and families living with arthritis. As a peer advocate you will advise, guide and champion.

Experienced panel members will also act as peer mentors to new panel members – offering guidance and coaching in their role.

We are looking for someone who

- Is enthusiastic about creating positive change.
- Is a team player who can listen and respect the views of others.
- Keen to contribute, ask questions and suggest alternative ideas.
- Can communicate well and willing to be involved in discussions.
- Can offer some previous experience of representing others and/or influencing (e.g. school council, youth forum, debating) would be beneficial, but not essential.
- Is able to be punctual, reliable and committed.
- Is over the age of 16 and under the age of 30 at the point of applying to volunteer.
- Is caring, sensitive and empathetic to all people regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, faith and culture.

What you will be doing

- Shaping our charity's work.
- Developing new resources.
- Running events/activities for children, young people and families.
- Raising awareness through podcasts, blogs and awareness days.
- Act where necessary to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

What we ask of you

- Follow all relevant Versus Arthritis' policies and abide by our values and behaviours.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to your staff contact – Young People and Families Manager/Worker.
- Follow Young People and Families guidance.

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 children 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.

- To support safe recruitment, you will be asked to undertake an identity check and the appropriate level of criminal record disclosure screening: **This role involves working with vulnerable adults and children. We will require the volunteer to have an Enhanced Criminal Record Check including Child Barring Lists, dependant on nation specific requirements and guidelines.**

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

- The knowledge that you are making a difference to the lives of young people living with arthritis.
- Induction into your role.
- Opportunities to meet people and make friends.
- Link new members to an experienced panel member – who will offer support and guidance.
- Monthly panel meetings where opportunities for involvement and projects are discussed.
- IT equipment where needed.
- Wider accessibility support to ensure you are fully able to participate.
- Opportunities to add new skills and experiences to your CV or personal statement.
- References for you for your personal development.
- Support to move into wider volunteer and involvement opportunities.
- 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). In most cases, we will pay for accommodation, meals and travel for you in advance.
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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 require a Criminal Record check.

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