

Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role	Policy Panel Member
Volunteer Manager	Senior Parliamentary and Public Affairs Adviser
Where you will be based	Home

Why we want you

We listen, and everything we do is based on the experiences of people affected by Parkinson's. It's crucial we understand the views, concerns and priorities of people with Parkinson's, their families, friends and loved ones to underpin our work, and ensure it reflects what matters to the people we represent.

"I became aware of possible membership of the Panel via conversations during recruitment interviews I was helping with. Benefits of membership are that I can be better informed and also feed in views I have developed. It is also interesting and important to hear the views of others on the panel. I would say do it - join the Panel - it's interesting and important." Dick Coldwell - Panel member

The wider our understanding, the greater chance we have of changing public policy together - on anything from disability benefits to the use of cannabis-related medicinal products - in order to benefit everyone affected by Parkinson's.

What you will be doing

- As a member of the Policy Panel, you will receive a monthly update on the work of the Policy and Campaigns team and will be asked to feed in your views on what Parkinson's UK should think about specific issues on an ongoing basis. This could be anything that affects our community and covers a wide range of topics including research, welfare and health and social care.
- You'll spend one to two hours per month reviewing information and updates, and providing your feedback
- There is also a twice yearly meeting which since the Covid-19 pandemic has taken place virtually; this situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis

The skills you need

- You'll be a person with Parkinson's or closely affected by Parkinson's and your experience is your expertise!
- You'll be able to commit to volunteering on the Panel for an extended period of time, ideally for at least a year.

- If you'd like to join us, we'll provide an introductory discussion, along with information on how it works.

What's in it for you

- You'll get a rich picture of what it's like to live with Parkinson's in the UK, and your views will help shape Parkinson's UK's policy position and how we drive change
- You'll help make decisions and direct the work of the Policy and Campaigns team
- You'll learn more about the work of a parliamentary and public affairs team at a national charity
- You'll have the opportunity to meet new people with a close relationship to Parkinson's and share your experiences together.
- You'll practice and develop your communication skills: sharing your experience, providing feedback on our policy work, showing your great eye for detail and ability to translate your experiences and those of the people around you into important insights for the work of Parkinson's UK
- You'll be supported in this role by the Senior Parliamentary and Public Affairs Adviser at Parkinson's UK

Disclaimer

We welcome applications from people from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. We actively encourage people with Parkinson's to apply.

As a Parkinson's UK volunteer you'll be provided with an induction programme, including advanced data protection training.