

NORTH OF ENGLAND CRITICAL FRIEND VOLUNTEER

Role Description

Team: North of England

Main contact: Jennifer Shaw, SVDL

About Diabetes UK

As the UK's leading diabetes charity, it's our job to tackle the diabetes crisis. We're here to prevent Type 2 diabetes, campaign for and support everyone affected by diabetes, and fund research that will one day lead us to a cure.

About the role

Our Critical Friend's will form a panel of volunteers in the North of England, who can feed back on Diabetes UK resources, materials and projects and offer lived experience to help shape our future work. Our volunteers would be home-based for the majority of their role and would be asked to review and critique work shared by the local team. Our panel will meet occasionally via online platforms or face-face (when able to do so), so we are looking for volunteers who are able to work independently and as part of a team.

Our panel will be limited to a maximum of 20 volunteers and will be refreshed every 9-12 months, to ensure we are capturing a diverse range of opinions and voices.

As this is a new role, we are looking for volunteers who are happy to trial a new way of working and develop the volunteer role within the region.

Main tasks and activities:

- Review Diabetes UK materials and offer feedback on accessibility, relevance and areas for improvement.
- Contact with the North of England team when we are looking for a critical ear and lived experience of people affected by diabetes, for example to discuss wording for promotional material or sessions offered at an event.
- Part of a panel of volunteers who meet to discuss, review and share experiences to shape the work of Diabetes UK.
- Review and develop the volunteer role alongside the North of England team.

About you

We are looking for people who are:

- Located in the North of England.
- Affected by diabetes or linked professionally in some way.
- Happy to share their thoughts and provide honest and constructive feedback.

- Able to work as part of a team, with good listening skills as well as confidence to share your own opinions. Ground rules will be set and agreed upon by our volunteer panel, to make sure all are comfortable in the space.

What Diabetes UK can offer you

- The opportunity to be part of a volunteer group who help to shape the work of Diabetes UK and improve our reach into communities in the North of England.
- Induction to Diabetes UK and the role by your designated volunteer manager.
- Initial group training to cover more on the panel's role and ground rules for the group.
- 1:1 support and supervision with your volunteer manager.
- Reference available upon request.
- The opportunity to learn new skills.
- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred while carrying out activities for Diabetes UK, e.g. travel, lunch.

Safer Recruitment

We are committed to ensuring that our volunteer recruitment is fair, safe and consistent. The recruitment and selection process must therefore be appropriate to the nature of the role. Some roles may require a more in-depth selection process, for example those working with children or vulnerable adults. Your volunteering contact will be able to explain more about this.

This role will require two references.

We will be capping the volunteer panel at 20 members, so an informal interview with a volunteer manager in the North of England will be necessary for this role.

How to apply and next steps

To hear more about this role, please get in touch with Jennifer Shaw, Senior Volunteer Development Lead for the North of England on: jennifer.shaw@diabetes.org.uk or call our North of England office line on 01925 653281.

We will close the application period on Sunday 20th June 2021, with another round of recruitment planned for 2022.