Volunteering with Alzheimer’s Research UK

Policy Sounding Boards

Thank you!

Thank you for your interest in becoming involved with patient and public involvement at Alzheimer’s Research UK.

Our Policy Team is determined to keep dementia on the government’s priorities and to work with policymakers to ensure the UK is a place where world-leading research can thrive. We’re seeking volunteers to make sure this work reflects the views of people affected by dementia. Sounding Boards will be a way for your voice to be heard and valued. Your experiences, ideas and opinions could be vital for important projects, such as our policy work to help prepare the NHS for future dementia treatments.

What will a Sounding Board member do?

- Be a voice to help sense check items of work such as consultation responses, and to offer insight into future relevant topics and programmes of work.
- Help shape the direction of our policy work and new projects.
- Share experiences of how dementia has affected you, either personally or as a carer or family/friend.

How much time will I have to commit?

We are looking for people who would be interested in attending Policy Sounding Boards in London or Cambridge. We will be aiming to hold a Sounding Board every 3-4 months, where we will go out to those who have registered interest to see who would be able to attend.

Sounding Boards will usually last 2-3 hours with refreshments offered. Travel expenses are covered and help can be given in planning and booking travel, but please remember to incorporate any travel needs when considering your attendance at one of our Sounding Boards.

What are we looking for?

Ideally you’ll have the following:

- Direct or indirect experience of dementia.
- Good listening skills.
- Willingness to represent people living with dementia and make a difference.
- Confidence to share your personal experiences and ideas.
- Friendly demeanour and willingness to work with the policy team.
- Interest in patient-centred approaches.
- Interest in the current political landscape.
- Interest in medical research/life sciences and the National Health Service.
- A passion for Alzheimer’s Research UK’s work.
What are the personal benefits?

In return, by becoming involved with our patient and public involvement Sounding Boards, you’ll benefit from:

- Opportunities to share your experiences, ideas and opinions on policy issues which affect people living with and affected by dementia.
- Support to understand the policy issues you will be involved with.
- Having your voice heard to shape our current policy work and future direction of work.
- Opportunities to build personal confidence and develop your communication skills.
- Connecting with a wider community affected by dementia.
- Reimbursement of reasonable out of pocket expenses such as travel, food, and carer support. Accommodation will be booked, and expenses covered in advance on behalf of you as and when required.
- Having your experience valued as part of a worldwide movement to overcome dementia.

Why volunteer with us?

Whether you’re living with the condition yourself or have a loved one with dementia, we’d love for you to get involved as a Sounding Board member.

Our volunteers tell us that volunteering is fun and rewarding, and it helps them meet new people and have new experiences. But most importantly, it’s their way to help challenge the way people think about dementia. Many of our volunteers have been affected in one way or another by dementia. Often, they’ve cared for a friend or family member with Alzheimer’s disease. Volunteering for Alzheimer’s Research UK is their way of being part of the community whose mission is to bring about the first life-changing dementia treatment.

When you volunteer with Alzheimer’s Research UK, you’re helping us make breakthroughs possible.

Our promise to you

When you become an Alzheimer’s Research UK volunteer, we’ll always treat you with respect, consideration and appreciation. We’ll listen to what you have to say and ask you what you think. We’ll make sure you’re always working in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere. And of course, your health, safety and welfare are our top priority.

We’ll be there to support you every step of the way, and we’ll make sure you know exactly what you’re doing. To keep you up to date with what’s happening in our volunteering community, we’ll send you our regular newsletter and e-newsletters.

How do I apply?

If you have any further questions, please contact our Policy Advisor, George Lankester by email George.Lankester@alzheimersresearchuk.org or telephone 01223 622 708. To apply, head to our Sounding Board webpage, and for further details visit our website: www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/volunteer