

Young People Versus Arthritis Advisory Panel

Volunteer role description

Want to help Versus Arthritis shape our future work with young people?

Do you...

Have arthritis or have a related condition?

Live in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or England?

And are you between 18 and 25 years old?

If this sounds like you – keep reading to find out how you can get involved!



WHAT DOES VERSUS ARTHRITIS DO?

Versus Arthritis is a national charity that supports people of all ages who are living with arthritis or a related condition.

- When people need support, we are here to help in whatever way they need us – on the phone, online or in person
- We bring together researchers from across the world, funding them to develop more and better treatments
- We work with healthcare professionals in their development so that they can support people with arthritis
- We campaign to challenge the misconceptions around arthritis and to ensure that arthritis is recognised as priority in the UK

Find out more about [Versus Arthritis](#)

WHAT IS THE YOUNG PEOPLE VERSUS ARTHRITIS ADVISORY PANEL?

This is a new young people's advisory panel. We are setting it up to help us develop a new programme of work called 'Reaching Every Young Person'. Versus Arthritis already supports young people through our Young People's and Families service, which offers workshops, residential weekends and one to one support. Our evidence and feedback suggest that our current service is making a positive difference to the lives of young people and their families. However, we know there is a large proportion of children and young people that we are not currently reaching and supporting.

We want to change this through our 'Reaching Every Young Person' programme. And, we want to make sure that young people's views and preferences are included in our decisions about how we might expand our work to reach all children and young people.

The Young People Versus Arthritis Advisory Panel will:

- Input and advise on our Reaching Every Young Person plans and priorities
- Input and advise on specific areas of work, e.g. developing information leaflets or website content for young people
- Meet face to face 3-4 times a year (across the UK)
- Take part in online discussions and consultations

The Advisory Group will work together for a year initially. We hope to continue having a Young People Versus Arthritis Advisory Panel, but the role of the group may change once we have agreed the Reaching Every Young Person work programme. The role of the group will be reviewed, with the panel, after a year.

The first meeting of the panel is likely to be on Saturday, 16 November 2019 and to be in London. The format and location of further meetings will be decided by the young people who are recruited to the advisory panel.

Find out more about our current [Young People and Families Service](#).

WHO CAN APPLY?

We are looking for young people who have the following skills, knowledge and characteristics:

- Good communication skills, so that you can take part in discussions and share your views
- Enthusiastic about creating positive, long lasting change
- Be a team player who can listen to and respect the views of others
- An understanding of living with arthritis (or related condition) and how this impacts the lives of children and young people
- Motivated and keen to contribute new ideas
- Respectful and kind to others
- Ability to attend at least 3 meetings a year and keep in regular contact with the group throughout the year and responding to tasks via email and phone
- Able to make a one-year commitment

Some previous experience of representing others e.g. school council, youth forum would be beneficial.

We want the Young People Versus Arthritis Advisory Panel to be a diverse group. So, in addition to the skills, knowledge and qualities listed above, we want to make sure that we have a balance of people from Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We also

want to include young people with different types of arthritis or related musculoskeletal conditions. So, these factors will be considered in the recruitment process.

We welcome applications from those who are currently known to Versus Arthritis and from those who are currently not involved.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US?

This is a voluntary role that involves some travel across the UK to attend meetings. Versus Arthritis will reimburse you for any out of pocket expenses, including travel, transport and occasional accommodation.

You will get an induction to Versus Arthritis and the role on the advisory panel. Versus Arthritis' staff will work with you and support you in the role, particularly in the lead up to each meeting.

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in a national advisory panel and to influence the development of a new programme of work at Versus Arthritis, which will touch the lives of all young people with arthritis. It is also an opportunity to:

- Develop your skills in communicating, planning, leading and more
- Learn about Versus Arthritis' work and influence projects that support children and young people
- Work with an inspiring group of like-minded young people

HOW TO APPLY?

Email your completed application form to ReachingEveryYoungPerson@versusarthritis.org by **12 noon on Tuesday, 1 October 2019**

We will then invite successful applicants to a 30-minute telephone/Skype interview with staff from Versus Arthritis between 7 and 11 October 2019.

If you join the team, we will organise an induction day for you to meet everyone and find out more about the role. For more information:

Contact Danielle Gilbert, Project Officer for Reaching Every Young Person on 0207 380 6578 or email ReachingEveryYoungPerson@versusarthritis.org

We look forward to receiving your applications by 1 October.

Thank you for your interest in Versus Arthritis.