

MSK Champion: Role profile

The role: Versus Arthritis MSK Champion

The programme:

Duration: 18 months

- 5 x residential development sessions at Ashridge Executive Education (see key dates section)
- 4 x Action Learning Sets (facilitated online sessions with fellow champions) to discuss and share ideas)
- In addition to the fixed sessions, Champions will also be expected to complete self-directed learning, and allocate time to meet with their mentor as agreed/required.
- Champions will be expected to deliver a service or systemic improvement project throughout the duration of the programme. They will be expected to continually reflect on their performance, and feedback on the impact of the project.

Remuneration:

All meals, accommodation and training are funded by Versus Arthritis.

Travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed in line with Versus Arthritis' expenses policy.

In order to support accessibility and inclusion to the programme, additional financial support in the form of a bursary may be considered on a case by case basis.

Please contact us at champions@versusarthritis.org if you think you may need additional support.

Accessibility:

We are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment and will work to enable individuals who may require adjustments and/or additional support, to participate fully.

Our vision for Versus Arthritis MSK Champions:

There are approximately 17.8 million people living with the pain and disability of musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions in the UK. For a large proportion of this population, their health and care needs are not met by the current health system, so we are investing in a programme of activity that drives improvement.

We seek to do this by building and upskilling an active MSK professional community; investing in the development and spread of new treatments, services and interventions; and building relationships with decision makers in order to influence improvement in local health systems.

Our **vision** is to cultivate a multi-disciplinary community of leaders and influencers of improvement in MSK health services, with the ultimate aim of improving the quality of life for people affected by MSK conditions.

Together with **Ashridge Executive Education** we have created a bespoke leadership development programme, which will support you to become a Versus Arthritis MSK champion and drive improvements within your local health system and/or at a national level.

We believe that transformation of MSK care is only possible with a multi-disciplinary approach, we are looking for individuals from a range of professional backgrounds and specialties.

You will need to be involved in the design, commissioning and/or delivery of musculoskeletal care and could be a:

- Clinician (including but not exclusively an AHP, Nurse, GP, Pharmacist, Rheumatologist)
- Public health practitioner
- Commissioner
- Service manager
- Researcher or educator

We will be focussing on your potential to lead, your self-awareness, willingness to reflect and learn, adapt to change and deliver tangible change for people with MSK conditions.

Being an MSK Champion

Being an MSK Champion involves:

Being able to reflect on your leadership style	Reflecting on personal experiences and be open to identifying your leadership style and addressing areas to develop.
Being a Versus Arthritis ambassador	Raising the profile of Versus Arthritis and the charity's vision and goals at appropriate opportunities such as speaking at events, writing blogs and media work.
Being part of an improvement community	Being connected to others committed to championing change and delivering tangible impact for people with MSK conditions.
Being able to lead and deliver improvement	Leading by example, modelling good practice and working with Versus Arthritis to achieve tangible impact for people with MSK Conditions.
Being innovative	Identifying issues and implementing new approaches.
Learning and sharing with peers	Connecting with other champions and their networks to share good practice and support each other's projects through an online forum and facilitated Action Learning sets.
Being able to demonstrate impact	Measuring tangible outcomes from your project, ensuring it has a positive impact on the lives of people with MSK conditions.
Creating effective partnership working relationships	Partnering with key stakeholders both internally and externally to drive forward positive change in your locality for patients with MSK conditions.

Benefits of being an MSK Champion:

- Being involved in a unique and innovative MSK focused leadership programme
- World-class personal development opportunity, including leadership, influencing and quality improvement training
- Access to experts in research, policy and the MSK community
- Direct access to volunteers and Patient Insight Partners to co-design your service improvement programme
- Support, guidance and expertise from Versus Arthritis
- Being part of a multi-disciplinary community of peers to share experiences and learning

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Essential MSK Champion criteria (what we are looking for)

You have capacity for reflective learning	Great leaders need to be able to reflect on their personal experiences, think carefully about their own leadership style and be open to addressing weaknesses to hone their skills when leading change and influencing others.
You are committed to improving care for people with MSK conditions	We expect you to be passionate about building, applying and sharing knowledge to create change for people with MSK conditions and demonstrate a willingness to challenge the status quo in order to achieve this.
You have expertise in MSK health and understand your local health care system	You must be involved in the design, commissioning and/or delivery of musculoskeletal care. This includes front line clinicians, public health practitioners, commissioners, service managers, researchers and educators. You will need to use that experience and knowledge to ensure positive improvements in care services/systems. This will include having a good understanding of models of care at a national and local level.
You have ideas for improvement	You will have an idea(s) for a work-based musculoskeletal service improvement project. Throughout the course of the programme we will support you to develop your skills and capabilities you need to implement a service improvement project.
You have potential to lead and influence change	You do not necessarily need to be in a senior position but do need to have influence within your local health system.
You're willing and open to learning from multidisciplinary peers	You will be expected to work with your fellow Champions as part of a multi-disciplinary community. This will require you to be receptive to others' situations and perspectives and be open to giving and receiving feedback.
You can commit to the time and demands of the programme	You will be expected to attend all mandatory aspects of the programme including 5 residential sessions at Ashridge Business School (see key dates section) and 4 Action Learning Sets over the 18 months. You will also be expected to commit to your project, undertake self-directed learning, evaluate your project and communicate the impact.
You have support from a senior executive (e.g. director, chief executive or chair)	On your application form you must name a senior executive from your employing organisation who will support your application and, if you are successful provide a statement of endorsement for you to undertake the role.

We will also take the following into account when recruiting:

- The diversity of the group, ensuring there is representation from different professions and areas of the UK.
- A variety of service improvement project ideas that demonstrate your commitment to improving MSK health care.