Role profile

Patient representative – Help shape the future of Cancer Research UK

Type of opportunity
Patient representative on Cancer Research UK strategy working group.

Time commitment
1-2 hours per week from March to May 2020 (this may vary from week to week).

Payment and expenses
We’ll compensate you for all your involvement as per our policy (see below). We’ll pay for all reasonable travel/accommodation if needed.

Background information

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is developing a new 10-year strategy for the whole organisation. A strategy is a long-term response to the world we live in, including a set of choices about what we will and won’t do. Over the coming months, we’ll explore different options for strategic changes CRUK could make to continue to be relevant and make progress to beat cancer. These changes cover the full range of activity CRUK undertakes, from how we generate money to how we spend on activity that helps save lives. We’re committed to putting people affected by cancer (including patients, carers and loved ones) at the heart of our new strategy. We want you to help us develop CRUK’s future direction and make sure your needs and opinions are represented.

Your role

We’re currently considering 10 to 15 strategic changes we could make to the organisation. For example, how much we focus on preventing cancer vs treating people with cancer, how we mobilise supporters to support our cause, and how we use health and medical data in research. Each of these will have a dedicated working group assessing whether CRUK should make this change in our future strategy. Each working group will bring together staff with a range of experience and expertise and will be sponsored by a CRUK management board member (‘Executive Director’) and led by a senior member of staff. Where relevant, we’d like to invite one or two patient representatives to join each working group.

We want the strong voice of people affected by cancer to be central to this piece of work. As a patient representative, your role will be to share your thoughts and insights on these potential changes and what CRUK should do in the future. You’ll act as an advisor and sounding board for the working group, who will come to you with ideas, ask for your thoughts and involve you in discussions to help shape output from the group. We’d like you to provoke and challenge, making sure that what matters the most to people affected by cancer is at the forefront of our work.
In this role, you will be required to...

You’ll be joining a working group in the very early stages and will be involved in deciding how you’ll work together. This will include deciding how you’ll be involved and how often you’ll be contacted. Because of this, we can’t provide details of exactly how you’ll be involved at this stage, but it will likely be in a variety of ways including attending workshops (in person or over the phone), having phone conversations, reviewing documents and being consulted over email. We anticipate a time commitment of around 1-2 hours per week from March to May 2020, although this will vary between working groups and from week to week.

We’re looking for people who...

- Are or have been affected by cancer (patients, survivors, carers, loved ones)
  AND
- Are comfortable and willing to share their experience and opinions
- Are confident to provoke discussion and challenge our senior leaders
- Have good communication skills and the ability to share their thoughts constructively
- Can objectively represent the needs of a broad range of people
- Have good knowledge of CRUK and what we do.

You do not need to have:

- An understanding of research or science.

In this role, we will support you by...

- Giving you a key contact who will answer any questions you have about your role
- Sending you information in advance with information about your role and what to expect
- Providing an introduction to the project over the phone
- Creating a safe and open environment for feedback, so that you can share your views
- Send you any documents to review in advance with clear deadlines and expectations.

Additional Information

Length of role: From March to May 2020. As mentioned above, we don’t yet know the exact time commitment of this role and when your involvement will happen, as we’d like you to help us shape this. We expect this role to require roughly 1-2 hours per week on average, but this will vary from week to week.

Confidentiality: Some of the information that CRUK shares with you may be confidential or commercially sensitive. Therefore:

- You will be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- You will treat the information you receive from CRUK as confidential and will not share it with any other individual or organisation.
Reviewing the role and requesting feedback: CRUK will review how you’re being involved through this role to make sure we as an organization and you as an individual are getting the most out of it. This also helps us to shape our longer-term plans for involving people affected by cancer. To support this, you’ll be invited to share any feedback about your experience on an ongoing basis.

Payment:
CRUK is committed to recognising and rewarding your involvement. As the timings cannot be confirmed yet, we’ll agree payment details with you if your application is successful. We’ll compensate you for all your involvement as per our policy (see below).

- £30 for 2 hours
- £50 for half a day
- £80 for a full day.

Travel expenses: Should you need to attend a meeting in person, we’ll pay for all reasonable travel and will provide accommodation if needed. Please note that CRUK has to approve all expenses and payments in writing in advance and payments are subject to our policies.

Equal Opportunities: At CRUK we value diversity and we’re committed to creating an inclusive environment which facilitates the involvement of all people affected by cancer. We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and cultures and believe that a diverse involvement network (or range of views and insight) will help us to better represent people affected by cancer and make a difference for cancer patients.

Interested in this opportunity?
If you’re interested in this opportunity, please contact involvement@cancer.org.uk by 28 January 2020.