



National Council Member

Volunteer Role Description

We're the MS Society. We fund world-leading scientists as they search for new treatments. We make sure everyone can access expert information and services to help them live well with MS. We speak up together, to make sure everyone's voice is heard and rights are protected. We support one another when times are tough and celebrate together when they are good. We make sure no one has to feel alone. Together we are a community. And together we will stop MS.

Our National Councils help us reach further into the MS community in each nation of the UK, acting as ambassadors for our cause and enabling people affected by MS to share what matters most to them. Councils help to deliver our strategy and national plans, and contribute to the Board's understanding of nation specific priorities and issues.

The purpose of this role

As a Member of a National Council, you'll represent and advocate on behalf of people affected by MS in the nation you serve, within the governance framework of the MS Society.

You'll contribute to the delivery of an annual plan of activity to fulfil the Council's purpose, developed by the Council and approved by the Board.

What the role involves

- Representing the views and perspectives of people affected by MS in the nation you serve, within the governance framework of the MS Society.
- Acting as an ambassador for the MS Society, and upholding our values.
- Promoting the MS Society to maximise our income generation and engagement.
- Promoting and supporting our Volunteering Programme in the nation you serve.
- Contributing to the development of the Council's annual plan.
- Contributing to the development of the MS Society's strategy and annual plan, including in particular through identifying specific national issues.
- Promoting communication between people affected by MS, staff, and the Board.
- Upholding all decisions properly made by the Council.
- Preparing thoroughly and participating fully in Council meetings.
- Using your specific skills, knowledge and experience to help the Council reach sound decisions.
- Maintaining appropriate confidentiality, disclosing any conflicts of interest and abiding by the MS Society's Code of Conduct, policies and procedures at all times.

Together, we are strong enough to stop MS.

Multiple Sclerosis Society. Registered charity numbers 1139257/SC041990. Registered as a limited company in England and Wales 07451571.

Skills and experience you need for this role

- The ability to operate effectively as part of a team.
- The ability to act collectively and not in the interests of one particular group, and to reach objective and independent decisions.
- An understanding of MS and the effects of living with the condition, and an appreciation of the work of the MS Society.
- An understanding and appreciation of the purpose of the Council and a commitment to attend all meetings and undertake associated tasks.
- The ability to communicate with a wide variety of people and organisations, including the ability or potential to speak at public engagements.
- The ability to act as an ambassador for the MS Society.
- A commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion.
- A commitment to the time required to fulfil your role.
- A commitment to developing networks that enable you to understand the views of people affected by MS in the nation you serve, in order to share those views within the Council and, via the Chair of the Council, with the Board of Trustees.

Expected time commitment

Members of National Councils are expected to contribute to four National Council meetings per year and to engage with MS community networks and local staff teams between meetings.

You will also be expected to take part in an induction programme and ongoing development.

Our Volunteering Programme

When you volunteer with us, you join our powerful community of people living with MS, scientists, campaigners, listeners, organisers, ambassadors and fundraisers.

Our Volunteering Programme holds the prestigious Investing in Volunteers (iV) accreditation. This award recognises our dedication to ensuring all volunteers have an excellent experience – from when we recruit you, through supporting you to develop skills and experience, to recognising your achievements.

Our shared commitments help keep our Volunteering Programme enjoyable, meaningful and safe for everyone. Download [Our Commitments](#) here.

Approved by the Board: February 2021

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