



Recruitment for the “*Lived Experience Panel*” - Grant reviewer involvement opportunity

Background information

The research team formed the Involvement in research funding working group, which conducted research on how best to involve lived experience members in the grant reviewing process for our Prevention and Cure response mode grants. The outcome was that we should devise the *Lived Experience Panel* as a formal method of involving the opinions and voices of people with lived experience into the grant reviewing process.

We are now recruiting for 10-15 lived experience members living with or beyond breast cancer who would like to be part of the lived experience panel and provide feedback on grant applications for our Prevention and Cure response mode grant.

What will a lived experience panel member do?

You will be a part of the reviewing process immediately after the second triage – this is the point in which the applications have been narrowed down, with only applications of good scientific quality remaining. Around 20-25 applications will reach the lived experience panel after the second triage, and each member will review around 5 applications. Each application itself will ideally have 2-3 lived experience reviewers, to ensure a range of opinions.

Role description

Your skills and attributes

We are looking for a person who has:

- Experience of breast cancer (either personally or through the experience of a loved one)
- A keen interest in breast cancer research
- The ability to think objectively and represent the needs of breast cancer patients
- The confidence to voice opinions clearly and constructively to enhance the quality of group discussions
- Strong written and communication skills
- The ability to listen, understand and respect different opinions
- The ability to maintain confidentiality, when required

You do not need to have:

- A scientific or research background

Your role

You will be required to:

- Attend one online meeting where you will give comments on the reports (this will likely be between Wednesday 7 October and Monday 12 October 2026, including Saturday but excluding Sunday).
- Read around 5 applications in advance of the lived experience panel meeting (note that we will not require written reviews but may collect notes from you)

Optionally, a select few members may choose to:

- Be a representative for the lived experience panel and attend the Grants Committee meeting (18 November 2026) to provide a summary of the feedback on behalf of the panel

Length of membership: The selected individual will be asked to contribute to the lived experience panel for 3 years from appointment. There may be an opportunity to extend depending on the scope. At first, you will just be reviewing for our Prevention and Cure grant in 2026, but we may ask you to review for our Equity and Wellbeing grant in addition to this in 2027.

Expenses: Lived experience members are entitled to claim £30 for activity between 1-2 hours, £50 for activity between 3-4 hours and £100 for a full day, including online meetings.

N.B. lived experience representatives as individuals are responsible for their own tax affairs and ensuring that they are paying the appropriate level of tax.

Equal Opportunities: We are committed to equal opportunities and embracing diversity and wish to meet the aims and commitments set out in our Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy and Procedures. This includes not discriminating under the Equality Act 2010. This role requires you to work with and represent the views of a diverse group of people.

Conflicts of interest: Conflicts of interest will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and managed by Breast Cancer Now.

Breast Cancer Now will support you by...

- Arranging an induction session to provide you with additional information on Breast Cancer Now, the lived experience panel and the role
- Providing sufficient training for you in order to fulfil your role
- Providing you with a key contact who will be available to answer any questions you may have

Application process:

If you are interested in sharing your experience of breast cancer and contributing to our grants review process, please reach out to Dr Sasha Bradshaw at sasha.bradshaw@breastcancernow.org by **Monday 13 July 2026** so that we can arrange an informal interview with you.