



Role: Director (voluntary, unpaid, reasonable expenses covered) with lived experience of using mental health services
Location: Gateshead
Time Commitment: 12 Board meetings per year, plus work in between with the executive team (approx. two days per month)

The Board of Directors at Your Voice Counts are looking for people to join the Board on a voluntary basis to assist with the leadership of the charity.

This is an exciting opportunity to join an established Board and will include working alongside Directors with learning disabilities.

We've recently said goodbye to some long-standing Board members and would like to recruit people to support us to work towards building an inclusive society that is understanding of the needs of all, with communities that are welcoming and supportive, where people have the opportunity to live their best life.

We're particularly keen to recruit people with lived experience of using mental health services. Experts by Experience are at the heart of everything we do, and as a provider of services for people with mental health challenges, particularly in our statutory advocacy services, we want to make sure the voice of service users runs through our organisation all the way through to Board level.

About Your Voice Counts

We are a growing organisation that helps vulnerable people find a voice and gain control over their lives.

We believe that a society that recognises that people with different needs and abilities all have valuable contributions to make is better, fairer and richer for everyone.

We aim to help the people we support to **speak up** for what they want and need, to be better **connected** to their communities, and to have **choice and control** in their lives.

We do this by running advocacy services, supporting self-advocacy and user-led groups, and through a range of community-based services that support people to improve their circumstances.

Underpinning everything we do is a belief that people with lived experience of services are best placed to design the solutions that meet their needs. This extends to our Board where we have a number of people who have used our services, including people with learning disabilities, as active members of the Board.

Our values guide how we work and we are all responsible for putting these into practice every day:

- **Being accountable** – We are honest and take responsibility for our actions.
- **Being person-centred** – We put people's needs first.

- **Learning and growing** - We challenge ourselves and each other to help us get better at what we do.
- **Promoting equality** – We work to get equal opportunities for everyone.
- **Working together** – We achieve more by working as a team than by acting alone.

We are looking for people who are passionate about our mission to join our Board of Directors.

About the role

The person we're looking for will:

- Have experience of using mental health services.
- Be happy to share their own experiences of living with a mental health issue and using services.
- Have experience of speaking up for themselves or for other people.

We ask that all our Directors:

- embrace challenge and change
- have the willingness to devote the necessary time and commitment to the duties of the role
- are passionate about the organisation's mission
- are able to work effectively in a team.

Main responsibilities

- To commit to 12 Board meetings per year, with an additional six meetings available for Directors who need support to prepare for Board meetings.
- To read and review Board papers ahead of meetings.
- To embrace our organisational values.
- To participate in discussions whereby people from our client groups, including those with learning disabilities, are equals.
- To be able to explain the charity's public benefit.

Role of the Board as a whole

- To be clear about the organisation's purpose, public benefit and direction.
- To agree clear organisational objectives and develop a realistic strategy for achieving them.
- To agree the organisation's ethos, culture and values and to lead by example and monitor adherence to these, reviewing them periodically.
- To evaluate the performance and impact of the organisation, monitoring a consistent set of organisational performance indicators.
- To agree organisational policies and procedures.
- To monitor and oversee staff morale and engagement on behalf of the Board.

- To ensure that the organisation is financially sound, plans and manages resources effectively and can account for its finances publicly.
- To approve the annual budget.
- To approve annual accounts.
- To agree an approach to risk and how it will be managed, regularly reviewing specific significant risks.
- To ensure that arrangements are in place to consider concerns raised in confidence about any alleged improprieties, misconduct or wrongdoing.
- To review governance documents.
- To undertake an annual review of policies, procedures and risk register.
- To create and follow an annual Board plan.
- To appoint and manage financial auditors.

To apply, please complete an application form and send to jobs@yvc.org.uk by Wednesday 6th April at 5pm. Interviews are expected to take place w/c 11th April, with attendance/observation of a Board meeting to take place following a successful interview.

If you require any support to complete an application form or any reasonable adjustments or support in order to attend an interview, please contact Jenny Rohde on 0191 478 6472 or mail@yvc.org.uk.

For more information about this role, please call Dave Woolley or Jenny Rohde on 0191 478 6472.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all and would especially welcome applications from people from ethnically minoritised communities.