

Community Panel

Waverley Care was founded in 1989, at the height of the HIV crisis, and has been at the forefront of the community response to HIV ever since.

No one understands more about HIV, and the challenges that can come with it, than people living with HIV. These unique experiences and knowledge can't be represented by healthcare professionals, or policy makers alone. The purpose of Waverley Care's Community Panel is to support people living with HIV, to inform our work, and to help shape policies across Scotland in areas like stigma, care, and human rights.

The Community Panel will be made up of a small group of people living with HIV in Scotland. No prior knowledge about Waverley Care, or about policy, is needed to be a member of the panel. We will provide support and training.

SHAPING WORK

There is lots of work at Waverley Care which the panel will have the opportunity to be involved in.

We will also provide support to enable people to take part in a way that works for everyone. For instance, we know that some people may not want to come along to a group at first. That is fine, and we will support people to take part in a way that suits them.

At the moment, there are three key areas where we are really keen to have the panel's perspectives.

1 **Fast Track Cities**

In Scotland we have five Fast Track Cities. These cities are working to increase how many people know their HIV status, how many people are taking antiretroviral therapy, as well as how cities can reduce stigma.

You can contribute by:

- Providing a perspective of people living with HIV
- Sharing thoughts with the Community Panel about work cities are doing
- Helping to develop resources on topics like stigma

2 **Our campaign**

In 2020, the Scottish Government agreed to get to zero new HIV transmission, and zero stigma, by 2030. But Scotland is falling behind England and Wales in reaching this target.

You can contribute by:

- Sharing experiences around things like testing, stigma, and relationships
- Working with us to make sure the way that we talk about things is appropriate
- Helping to develop training for groups (like people working in healthcare)

3 **Wider policy work on Blood Borne Viruses (BBV)**

We also want to make sure that policies meet the needs of people living with HIV and hepatitis C. Sadly, we know that this isn't always the case.

You can contribute by:

- Sharing what matters to you
- Sharing individual and group experiences with people in the Scottish Government or in Scottish Parliament
- Attending events like debates in Scottish Parliament, and meetings with policy makers.

BEING A PANEL MEMBER

We want the panel to be accessible for anyone who wants to be involved. This means that we will tailor it flexibly, depending on what people need.

Some of the things we may ask people to do include:

- Attending group meetings (taking place once every 2 to 3 months). These meetings will be online, but personal online access is not a requirement - we can meet in the office and join online together.
- Responding to emails or phone calls with the policy team where required
- Representing people living with HIV in meetings (with support from Waverley Care)
- Reviewing documents in advance of meetings to offer feedback
- Respecting confidentiality of everyone in the group

Our promise

We are committed to providing support and training. We will discuss training needs individually, and in the first meeting.

We will listen to the panel's perspectives and feedback on developments. We will respond in a timely manner and acknowledge and recognise contributions.

We also recognise that conversations can be difficult and sensitive. We will provide debriefing and extra support where it is needed.

EXPENSES AND TAKING PART

We know that taking part in groups such as the community panel can lead to costs for you. We want everyone to be able to take part. To make sure that this is the case, we will provide compensation for members of the Community Panel. This will be at the following rates^[i] and can be paid through bank transfer, petty cash, or in vouchers (panel member's choice):

- £15 for online group meetings
- £40 for extended meetings (exceeding 2 hours)
- £70 for half-day meetings (at, or exceeding, 4 hours)
- £150 for full day meetings (full day)

We know that not everyone will want to or be able to accept this money. This will be your decision, and we respect your wishes and needs^[ii].

[i] We will cover reasonable expenses such as travel and subsistence. Other expenses can be reimbursed by prior agreement (if budget allows). These include compensation of receipted childcare or other carer expenses.

[ii] If you are receiving benefits, different benefits place different limits on the amount of money you can receive. These limits change from year to year. Many benefits will not be affected by being reimbursed for the panel, but some might. If you are receiving benefits and are not sure whether receiving payment will affect you, we recommend contacting your benefits advisor, a benefits advice service like Citizens Advice Bureau, or the local Jobcentre Plus. They will be able to provide advice tailored to your individual circumstances.

FEEDBACK

This work receives funding from the National Lottery Community Fund (Project ID 20211787). Throughout the next 12 months, we are required to provide updates on progress, development and learning.

As such, we may ask members of the panel for feedback at intervals to determine what is working, and what needs to be changed or improved. We are really grateful for your input.

How to get involved

If you would like to be involved, or would like further information, please get in touch with Policy & Research Officer, Gabrielle King at gabrielle.king@waverleycare.org

Visit us at waverleycare.org

Scottish Charity No. SC036500

Waverley
care

