

British Society for Heart Failure (BSH) Patient Advisory Panel/ Patient Adviser

The British Society for Heart Failure (BSH) is a clinical professional community for heart failure care and a registered charitable organisation. We provide medical education, training and access to research to a large multidisciplinary membership. Our values, standards and behaviours are reflected in the quality of clinical care we offer and the professional relationships we make with our patients, colleagues and the wider community. We focus on the values of inclusion, equality, respect, learning and excellence. These values put patients at the heart of what we do and underpin our purpose of making heart failure a national priority. The charity is in an exciting phase of growth and in order for the BSH to lead opinion more effectively, we need to affirm and build patient, public and stakeholder confidence that their heart failure care is in safe hands.

Heart failure is as malignant as some cancers and yet still it is not widely understood and subsequently not treated with the urgency it deserves. We have made extraordinary advances in the management of this condition over the last 20 years, it is now possible to live well with heart failure. Our aim as a society is to improve awareness and knowledge of heart failure, to ensure all patients have access to early and accurate diagnosis and referred for appropriate management by a multidisciplinary team of professionals led by a specialist in heart failure.

Hence, we are creating the expert patient adviser role which will play a vital part in bringing an independent perspective to the activities of the Society. You will help the health professionals that support the nearly one million people in the UK that have heart failure to manage their own heart failure symptoms, giving individuals the self-awareness & confidence to manage their lives.

Overview of the role of the Patient Advisory Panel:

- Advising the BSH Board and executive team on strategic direction and ambition ensuring that BSH discussions, campaigns and initiatives take into account the patient perspective and that patient benefit is central to activities, considerations and research programmes
- Making recommendations for new programmes and funding applications
- Objectively representing the wider views of people and their families affected by heart failure
- Bringing the diverse patient voice and inclusive perspective to BSH initiatives
- Building strategies to counter cultural barriers to accessing heart failure care
- Ensuring equity and equality of care for all
- Raising awareness of heart failure
- Identifying opportunities for wider patient involvement activities
- Delivering patient involvement activities
- Act as an Ambassador/ spokesperson for BSH in external activities, where relevant
- Build relationships with patient groups from associated organisations

We ensure that volunteers gain as well as give. Whether it is experience of working in the charitable sector or a more personal goal to improving overall health. Regardless of where we are in life, there is always room for growth & improvement - working together we ensure this happens for all parties involved with the British Society for Heart Failure in an exciting, yet professional environment.

Patient Expert Adviser:

Type of opportunity	Time commitment	Expenses
Expert Patient Adviser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This post is offered for a term of 3 years, renewable for up to a further 2 years by mutual agreement and appointments will be staged to ensure overlap of experience to support the Board. Training and induction will be provided to ensure your effectiveness in the role; Attendance at the induction session is a requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unremunerated voluntary position/ reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed Support with logistics for meetings will be provided by BSH

Skills and experience	Role
<p>We are looking for people who...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have experience of heart failure either as a patient, carer, or relative - Have an understanding or knowledge of the clinical/ research process for heart failure research studies - Have an understanding or knowledge of the functioning of a charitable organisation - Can provide critical and constructive feedback - Have good IT, analytical and networking skills - Have confidence to voice their own opinions clearly and participate in group discussion - Have the ability to listen and respect differing opinions 	<p>You will be required to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attend and take an active part in no more than 4 Patient Advisory Panel meetings per year (2 physical meetings – March and September - and 2 virtual meetings, depending on prevailing circumstances) - Prepare for each meeting by reading any paperwork required - Share your opinion and give advice - Ensure that discussions consider how the work fits with our strategy and is helping to drive patient and BSH benefit - Ensure the patient advisory panel is robust in terms of its objectives, performance measures and research priorities in delivering treatments and advice for people affected by heart failure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an awareness of the inclusion, equality and respect standards of the BSH* - We would welcome applications from those with current or recent skill and experience in policy-making, strategic planning, legal, commercial, charity, financial, educational, research - Interest in health and issues affecting the community as a whole, but particularly those most disadvantaged in society would be an advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a lay perspective on operational and strategic issues - Provide effective advice to the BSH Executive Board and help deliver the vision in accordance with the values of BSH - Respect the viewpoints of others in the group
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*[Respect, equality and inclusion](#) are central to the values of our charity and we are determined to create a society that promotes and values diversity. Organisations that are diverse in age, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, and perspective are proven to be creative, innovative and successful. More importantly, creating an environment where everyone, from any background, can do their best and represent the people we serve, gives us the freedom to address the broadest set of initiatives and celebrate different approaches.

For more information on BSH, please visit the [website](#)