



**Role:** Director (voluntary, with paid travel expenses)  
**Location:** Gateshead  
**Time Commitment:** 12 meetings per year, plus work in between with the executive team (approx. 2 days per month)

The Board of Directors at Your Voice Counts are looking for exceptional individuals to join our Board, to assist with the leadership of our thriving charity.

This is an exciting time to join our well respected and established organisation, as we continue to grow our work helping vulnerable people find a voice and gain control over their lives. We provide highly specialised advocacy services, support self-advocacy and user-led groups, and run drop-in sessions in Tyne and Wear where people can get personalised help with a range of issues. We help our clients to become better connected to their local communities and raise awareness of the issues that the people we support are facing. We have a skilled and passionate staff team who deliver these services and of whom we are extremely proud.

In everything we do, we believe in putting the service user at the heart. This follows through to our Board, where we have a number of service users with learning disabilities who are active members of the Board.

You do not need previous experience of working or living with people with learning disabilities to join our Board of Directors. We are looking for people who are passionate about our mission and share our values.

The person we're looking for will:

- Embrace challenge and change
- Have the willingness to devote the necessary time and commitment to the duties of the role
- Be passionate about the organisation's mission
- Be able to work effectively in a team
- Be a strategic thinker

Currently we are particularly interested in people with Legal or HR skills and experience, but we would also want to hear from you if you are excited by the opportunity to join our Board and have other relevant skills to offer. Previous Board or Trustee experience would be useful but is not essential.

#### **Main Responsibilities as a Board Member**

- Attendance at 12 Board meetings per year
- Attendance at additional Sub-Committee meetings in line with your skills, expertise and interest
- To read and review Board papers ahead of meetings
- To embrace and embody our organisational values (outlined below)
- To participate in discussions whereby people from our client groups, including those with learning disabilities, are equals
- To be able to explain Your Voice Count's public benefit

## Role of the Board

- 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, 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 organisation performance indicators
- To agree organisation policies and procedures
- To monitor staff morale
- 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 including the Scheme of Delegation
- To undertake an annual review of policies, procedures and risk register, facilitated by the Executive Assistant
- To create and follow an annual Board plan
- To appoint and manage financial auditors

We are currently reviewing and developing our induction programme for new Board members, to ensure that you get a great introduction to our organisation and the support you need to work effectively with us.

## Our Organisational Values

Our values are at the heart of everything we do:

- We are **person-centered**: We listen to what our clients want, help them to speak up, and we are committed to enabling them to have a voice in guiding our work and our future direction.
- We are **positive**: We focus on the best possible outcomes, promote the value and abilities of the people we work with, and refuse to allow assumptions to limit the potential of our clients.
- We are **professional**: We act in a transparent and non-judgemental manner, we always do what we say we are going to do, and we work collaboratively with other organisations, while not being afraid to challenge appropriately.

## Our Work

We structure our programmes around our five strategic phases:

**Engage** We reach people where they are and help them to get their needs met through statutory and case advocacy services and our crisis prevention work.

**Understand** We commit to building deeper relationships with our clients and working with them for the longer-term to help them consider what they want and need.

**Build** We help people to develop their confidence, resilience, skills and connections.

**Empower** We help our clients find a platform to speak from and opportunities to take on leadership roles.

**Change** We help our clients reshape the system around their needs and to effect change that has the potential to benefit others in similar circumstances.

To express interest in this position or membership of our Board of Directors, please contact Jenny Linn-Rohde (Executive Assistant) on [jenny.rohde@yvc.org.uk](mailto:jenny.rohde@yvc.org.uk) or 0191 389 7839 to discuss next steps.