**Forum Central Third Sector Representatives – Better Lives Board**

**Role Description**

**Context**

We are recruiting 3 new third sector representatives to the board. These are naturally occurring vacancies that have come up over the past few months. Former reps having moved over or taken on new roles in their daily work.

We are recruiting with special interest to represent the areas of **Advocacy, Disability and Unpaid Carers**

**The Better Lives Board**

The Better Lives Board was established by Leeds City Council in 2013 to provide a focus for community engagement in the development and delivery of support to people with care and support needs in Leeds. The Board involves people and their families who use social care and support services with decision makers and service providers working together to achieve our vision:

**Our Vision:**

We want every person in Leeds that needs care and support to live in the place they call home with the people and things they love, in communities that look out for one another, doing the things that matter most to them.

The Better Lives Board oversees the Better Lives Strategy, the Council’s strategy to enable people with care and support needs to live a good life. The Better Lives Strategy is a whole Council strategy that recognises the role that services across the Council play in helping people in Leeds to live good and fulfilling lives.

**About the roles**

The Third Sector Representative is a full voting member of the board. The role entails championing the work of the Better Lives Board across the city and advocating for the diverse Third Sector within the board. The successful candidate will work with the Forum Central team in gathering and synthesizing views from the sector to feed into the board, as well as feeding back from the board via Forum Central. It is an excellent opportunity to ensure that:

1. **The Third Sector** is able to to influence high quality health and care support and services and to contribute to improving wellbeing in Leeds

2. **The Better Lives Board** harnesses the power of the Third Sector to help deliver The Better Lives Strategy 2022-27

3. **City partners** receive the valued input and insight of the Third Sector and harness their contribution to Best City outcomes

Candidates for both roles must be able to provide time and capacity to commit to:

* Attending all six Board meetings per year, once every two months
* Attending the Forum Central Health & Care Leaders Network when appropriate.
* Attending quarterly Third Sector Forum Central Reps Meetings.
* Attending bi-weekly Leeds Health and Care Partnership Development Third Sector Reference Group Meetings when possible.
* Having regular contact with the Forum Central team members to discuss input from the sector across the agenda and for ongoing support

**Commitment**

Six meetings are held each year, each lasting around two hours and requiring approximately two hours preparation/feedback time for each meeting. The meetings are not public.

We aim to have any potential representatives ready to go through the selection process by the next Better Lives Board meeting on Thursday 21 November 2024 There is an invitation to shortlisted applicants to attend that meeting as a trial session.

Applicants wishing to continue into the final selection process will then be confirmed and ready to attend their first official meeting in the new year on Thursday 16 January 2025. Reps are expected to continue in their roles for 3 years from date of commencement.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**Applicants should be able to demonstrate and give examples, evidencing skills and knowledge in the following areas:

* Be confident speaking on behalf of the sector, without a personal or organisational bias
* Have a commitment to people’s voices being at the heart of decision making in Leeds
* Be committed to reducing health inequalities and improving outcomes for people
* Understand key relevant concepts including wider determinants of health and intersectionality
* Have strong knowledge of the health and care system in Leeds and in particular the Third Sector, voluntary and community services and an understanding of the importance of place and asset based provision
* Understand the strategic context for health and care in Leeds and the issues facing Third Sector organisations delivering health and care outcomes in Leeds
* Strong communication skills and the ability to be a confident strategic voice for our diverse Third Sector with a willingness to challenge constructively and hold the board to account
* Have experience of contributing to multi-agency meetings
* Third Sector representatives need to have relevant knowledge and expertise and strong and diverse links to communities, communities of interest and wider networks.
* Further specific knowledge, skills and abilities pertain to partnership working and working collaboratively.

**Support to the role**

The role is supported by the Forum Central Third Sector Advocates/Representatives Relationship Officer and the wider team who provide:

* An induction which will address any training and development needs and provide information and data about Leeds Third Sector, Forum Central and representation.
* Links and introductions to the Forum Central membership and wider partnerships
* Support for actions following meetings (e.g. accessing research, data, engagement with the wider sector) as required
* Access to simple feedback mechanisms
* Forum Central will communicate key messages arising from any board meetings to the wider sector (through the FC Website, ebulletin, etc.)
* Support available to enable capacity if a lack of capacity if a barrier to you or your organisation.

**Selection process**

Interested parties should provide an expression of interest to [reps@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:reps@forumcentral.org.uk)explaining how you meet the role criteria. The expression of interest should be no longer than 400 words.

Alternatively, you may submit a short video application explaining your suitability for the role. **The deadline for submission is Monday 18 November.** Please indicate in your application if you would be happy for us to contact you about further opportunities in third sector representation.

**Contact**

If you have any questions or would like more information on the roles please contact: [reps@forumcentral.org.uk](mailto:reps@forumcentral.org.uk).