



Steven Platts

Chief Executive

Groundswell

Candidate Statement

Steven is dedicated to improving the lives of people who are marginalised in society. He has provided one to one support to homeless people, managed teacher training programmes in refugee camps and led two homeless charities in London, both of which have grown successfully under his leadership. In total, Steven has over 15 years' experience of enabling vulnerable people to overcome social injustice.

Under Stevens leadership Groundswell and Glass Door achieved significant growth across different income streams and therefore he would bring to National Voices broad experience of successfully increasing statutory, earned and voluntary income. During his time at Glass Door income grew from 200k to over £1 million and over the past two years as Chief Executive of Groundswell, the charity has grown by over 50%. With a background in Maths and training in accountancy, Steven brings competence in managing all aspects of charity finances and reporting requirements.

Groundswell's award winning Homeless Health Peer Advocacy service gives homeless people the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their health issues and the team has regularly influenced health policy and practice through its peer led research and campaigns. The most significant of which is the Primary Care Access card which recently won a Communicating for Change award and is to be adopted across the country.

Over the next four years, Groundswell will take its peer led approaches to reducing health inequality onto a national stage through the organisation's Lottery funded #HealthNow programme. The charity will partner with Crisis, Shelter and many other health & social care organisations to create alliances working towards an inclusive health system where everyone has access to the health care they need; ultimately moving people out of

homelessness. Groundswell will play a lead role in making health services inclusive for homeless people.

Groundswell's position as a leading peer led organisation using patient voice to bring about changes to the health system combined with Steven's passion for social justice and breadth of experience in Leadership within the voluntary sector, make him an ideal candidate for the National Voices board.