Candidate Statement

I am Director of Information and Involvement at Cancer Research UK and have worked in the cancer field for the past nine years. Throughout my career, two consistent themes have been the involvement of those affected by cancer and the importance of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in the design and delivery of services and research.

National Voices is focused on person-centred care and that is at the heart of my current and previous work. From how we involve people affected by cancer wherever they can add value to Cancer Research UK’s work, to how we can equip the public and cancer patients to make decisions about their health and care, I spend my time working towards this goal. More broadly, I have worked with the NHS through the National Information Board and related activities to help keep patients at the centre of decisions about how their data are used.

I bring expertise in cancer, covering the biology, cancer services and cancer research. Improving the UK’s cancer outcomes requires understanding and addressing inequalities. This has been a particular focus for me since I produced a summary of the evidence for the National Cancer Equalities Initiative that highlighted the scale of the challenge and that progress often benefited different groups unevenly. I have worked in collaborations and partnerships across the government, the NHS and the voluntary sector, and have seen first-hand how powerful this can be, as well as some of the challenges. And I have wide experience of engaging with and influencing senior government and NHS stakeholders.

I would also bring a range of more general management and governance skills. I have experience in developing organisational and lower level monitoring frameworks and KPIs: I help others to decide what success looks like and how to measure it. I have wide experience of delivering - and supporting others to deliver - complex programmes to deliver these goals. As well as identifying and managing programme risks, I have experience in organisational risk management.
I would be delighted to bring my skills and experience to the governance of National Voices, working to represent members, furthering co-ordination and accelerating work towards our shared aims.