



## Usha Grieve

Director of Partnerships and Information

Compassion in Dying

### Candidate Statement

Whilst every one of us is distinct – our hopes, fears, strengths, goals and needs all vary dramatically – what seems universal is that people’s experience of health and care is better when they themselves are the leaders in decision-making. Through my role providing front-line support and strategic leadership I work hard to make this a reality.

I bring over 15 years’ experience developing and leading services that provide impactful support to people with long term conditions and/or nearing the end of life, and reflecting the voices and experiences of the people we work alongside to influence meaningful policy change.

My expertise lies in fostering strategic partnerships and creating innovative projects which improve health outcomes, generate evidence to improve practice and secure funding to deliver financial stability. I also strive to bring the voices of people who are often unheard to the fore.

I have an in-depth understanding of the particular opportunities and challenges faced by small organisations like National Voices, and a strong track record of delivery and leadership driving improvements for the people we support. In particular:

- Work with diverse communities known to experience health inequalities including Somali and Bangladeshi communities and people experiencing homelessness, increasing the number of people making decisions about treatment and planning their care.
- Securing strategic partnerships with emerging Primary Care Networks in Lambeth and Southampton, to improve clinician’s confidence in broaching end of life discussions and explore approaches to community engagement.
- Leading bespoke digital projects, such as the UK’s first free digital advance care planning tool, MyDecisions, which has now been used by over 25,000 people.

- Significant fundraising experience through building relationships with Trusts and foundations and developing innovative ways to improve health outcomes for people. For example, securing three years funding for a 'peer navigator' service, which brings together peer support and care navigation in a previously untested way.
- Generating evidence of what works from new models of supporting people and disseminating this nationally through conferences, policy responses and high-level influencing, affecting best practice and ultimately giving decision-making power to people the end of life.

Reflecting the real experiences of the people we work with is key to improving health outcomes and working in coalition with others, as National Voices does so deftly, is undoubtedly the most effective way to enact change and put people in charge of their health and care. I understand how to contribute at a strategic rather than operational level in order to complement and support the team, as well as bring my knowledge and understanding of the sector to help guide decision-making. I would be delighted to contribute to National Voices' Board of Trustees at such a pivotal and exciting time of growth in the organisation.