Apply to become a patient or carer representative to the Taskforce for Lung Health!

Do you live with a lung condition, or care for someone who lives with a lung condition?

Can you share your story and experiences of lung disease?

Are you passionate about changing the future of lung health?

The [Taskforce for Lung Health](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce) is a collaboration of the largest ever group of organisations and individuals who have come together to improve lung health.

This is a very important time for people affected by lung conditions to be involved in influencing the future of respiratory services.

Background information

In 2018, the Taskforce published a [five-year plan](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce/plan) setting out 43 recommendations for what changes need to be made in the next five years. This was put together after a call for evidence to gather existing research, data and practices about how policy and services need to be improved.

To help implement the recommendations in the report, the Taskforce established four working groups made up of Taskforce members and our supporting industry partners. The working groups cover the following priority areas of the Taskforce’s recommendations:

* [Diagnosis](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce/about/our-diagnosis-working-group),
* [Medicines Optimisation](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce/about/medicines-optimisation-working-group),
* [Pulmonary Rehabilitation](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce/about/pulmonary-rehabilitation-working-group)
* [Data Tracker](https://www.blf.org.uk/taskforce/data-tracker)

We are looking to recruit additional patient representatives to become members of the Taskforce and help ensure our work is shaped by the experience of people with lung disease.

Role profile

This role will sit on the Taskforce alongside other members (individual patient and carer representatives as well as organisations such as royal colleges, charities and professional bodies), to ensure that the experiences of people with lung conditions are at the forefront of the Taskforce’s work.

As well as sitting on the Taskforce, which meets three times a year, this role would be welcome to sit on any, or all, of our working groups.

We are looking for people who:

* Have experience of living with a lung condition or caring for someone who lives with a lung condition
* Are interested in improving health care
* Can read and take in documents relating to Taskforce work (with support available). Documents may include letters, papers outlining Taskforce positions and some statistics
* Can participate in group discussions, and listen to and respect differing opinions
* Are based in England and can contribute to meetings virtually (with Wi-Fi connection and digital device such as laptop computer or tablet)

**We know that some lung conditions are more common in disadvantaged communities, and that people from minority cultural and ethnic backgrounds experience health services differently, so we welcome applications from diverse groups to widen our existing representation of experiences.**

Commitment (health dependent)

* Attendance at three Taskforce meetings per year, held via Zoom
* Attendance at chosen working groups. The groups meet three times per year, with some input between meetings
* If desired, attendance at ad hoc events, for example a Parliamentary event we plan to host next year to showcase the work of the Taskforce and work that still needs to be done
* To contribute to the end of the Taskforce project, in December 2023 (health dependent)

Benefits for you

* Working with allies across the sector to make improvements to health care policy for people with lung conditions
* Opportunity to influence the work of the Taskforce and external partners, including the NHS
* Develop your communication skills and confidence
* Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed, and travel can be pre-booked by the BLF in advance if needed

Support and training for you

* Introductory session ahead of your first Taskforce meeting to meet the friendly Taskforce team, and other patient and carer representatives
* Dedicated patient and carer representative pre-meetings held before working group meetings with the Taskforce team and working group chairs to talk through the agenda and ask questions
* Ongoing peer support from other patient and carer representatives and other Taskforce members
* Carers are welcome to attend meetings to support you

Key dates

* Applications close on the 31 January 2022
* Informal interviews will be held on the 8, 9 and 10 February 2022
* The introductory meeting for new Taskforce patient and carer reps will be held week commencing 21 February 2022
* Next Taskforce meeting will be held on the 10 March 2022