



VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Lived Experience Panel Member

Why become part of RBL's Lived Experience Panel (LEP)?

RBL is looking for members of the Armed Forces community (veterans, close family members of veterans and Serving personnel, and bereaved family members) to use their experiences to influence and shape RBL's policy, research and wider campaigning efforts, as well as contribute to the organisation's broader strategic direction, **over a pilot period (May - October 2025)**. As a panel member, you will:

- Gain new skills and experience in research methods, policy development, and facilitation
- Build networks and connections within the Armed Forces sector and beyond
- Contribute to meaningful change within the Armed Forces community
- Help shape RBL's plans for Lived Experience involvement in the longer-term

What will I be doing as an LEP member?

You will have the opportunity to take part in activities which may include:

- Discussions and workshops to shape RBL's campaigns, policy and research priorities and outputs
- Provide insights based on your lived experience to influence organisational strategies
- Collaborating with RBL's policy and research team, as well as external partners, to ensure that policies, research, and recommendations are grounded in real-life experiences
- Training in research methods to participate in collecting data, co-producing surveys and facilitating focus groups, to strengthen RBL's evidence base
- Reaching out to your communities and networks to gather diverse perspectives, ensuring a broad range of views inform RBL's research, policies, and campaigns
- Training in facilitation and confident communication, supporting you to lead or contribute to workshops, discussions, and group activities, and to share your insights effectively in a range of settings

What skills and experience would I need?

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds with lived experience relevant to the Armed Forces community who are aged 18 years or above, specifically: veterans, close family members of veterans, and Serving personnel, and bereaved family members. This extends to: spouses and partners, children, stepchildren, parents, and siblings. Unfortunately, we are unable to involve currently Serving personnel in this pilot but are working on wider ways to engage Serving personnel in our future work.

No formal qualifications are required, but the following attributes will be beneficial:

- Willingness to listen and engage with diverse perspectives across the Armed Forces community,
- Demonstrating respect and open-mindedness
- A desire to actively seek out new knowledge and learning opportunities
- Readiness to reflect on personal experiences as a member of the Armed Forces community
- Interest in shaping policy, research and wider campaigning efforts
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Strong communication skills
- Commitment to participating in training and engagement activities
- Basic digital skills (e.g., using email, video calls, and online documents) to engage in activities remotely
- Proactive and willingness to contribute ideas to improve support for the Armed Forces community

This role is purely voluntary, and any arrangement is not intended to be legally binding or a contract of employment

What support will be available to me?

- Scheduled check-ins with the training team and final learning and feedback session
- Research training support and mentoring
- Flexible participation options – activities can be attended remotely or in person, depending on individual needs
- A dedicated point of contact for any queries or concerns
- Access to resources and information to support your role

We are committed to ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for all panel members. If you have any accessibility requirements, please let us know, and we will work with you to provide the necessary support.

What else do I need to know?

Where: Remote or in person, depending on activity requirements

Time commitment: Flexible participation between May – October 2025 with key meetings and training sessions to be scheduled in advance. This is a short pilot project aiming to understand the potential of this approach to Lived Experience involvement for the longer-term, and opportunities for volunteering after this point will be discussed as the project develops.

Deadline: 04 May 2025 – 23:55pm

Contact: policyandresearch@britishlegion.org.uk

Training/Resources: Comprehensive training in research methods and policy engagement provided by an appointed partner organisation.

Expenses: Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (agreed in advance) will be reimbursed.

Extra information

- You must be a minimum of 18 to be considered for the role
- Two satisfactory references and a criminal record (Disclosure and Barring Service [DBS] check) funded by RBL are required
- In order to comply with charity regulations, we reserve the right to carry out additional screening if we consider it appropriate to do so

What are the benefits for me?

- Enhance your CV by developing skills in research, policy engagement, and campaigning
- Opportunities to meet new people within and outside of the Armed Forces community
- Be part of a supportive and committed team, contributing to positive change for the Armed Forces community
- Celebrate your contributions at a dedicated recognition event at the end of the project

RBL values and behaviours– does the following describe you?

- Passionate about supporting the Armed Forces community and honouring their contribution
- A desire to provide great support in all that you do
- Enjoy and thrive in working in teams and with others
- An encourager, eager to share your knowledge and experience to help others
- Committed to being the best you can and to learn and develop new and existing skills

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