

Lay ADvice on Diabetes and Endocrine Research (LADDER) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Thank you for your interest in the Lay ADvice on Diabetes and Endocrine Research (LADDER) panel. Here are some frequently asked questions about the panel.

What is research?

Clinical research finds new and better ways to care for patients. We are involved in new discoveries that aim to improve treatment and care for people with diabetes and endocrine conditions. We do this by:

- investigating ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating diabetes and endocrine conditions
- ensuring medical research findings are turned into benefits for patients

What does 'Lay Expert' mean?

For LADDER, this means someone who is not a professional in the field of diabetes or endocrine medicine, but who has gained expertise in other ways such as living with diabetes or an endocrine condition, using the diabetes or endocrine services, or caring for someone with diabetes or an endocrine condition.

Who can be a member of the panel?

Anyone with an interest in diabetes or an endocrine condition, including people with diabetes or an endocrine condition, carers, relatives or friends of people with diabetes or an endocrine condition, someone with a can also be panel members.

What do I need to do to become a member?

You will be given a brief application form to complete and return by email or post. You will then be invited you to meet with the Chair of the panel and the coordinator. This informal chat is to ask why you want to volunteer for this panel, what you hope to contribute to this work, and let you know what we expect from you as a panel member. You will also be invited to observe a panel meeting, before committing to the role.

Do I need to disclose my diagnosis to the other members of the group?

No, it is not necessary, you may or may not wish to disclose this information it is your choice. However, if you do disclose your diagnosis all panel members adhere to the panels terms of reference and sign a confidentiality agreement.

How long would I be involved with the panel?

There is an initial fixed term appointment of 1 year with members eligible for reappointment by the other panel members for a further two terms of 3 years.

What are the benefits to me of becoming a member of the panel?

As part of the panel you will help to shape the future for people living with diabetes and endocrine conditions in South Yorkshire. You will also receive appropriate training to enable you to undertake your role. This training is likely to provide new skills and achievements which might be useful additions to your Curriculum Vitae.

I would like to contribute to the panel, but I cannot commit to attending the meetings regularly?

We feel your contribution is essential, so we have set up a variety of alternative ways in which people would be able to contribute their views without having to attend the group meetings. You can put forward any comments on circulated by telephone, post or email in advance of the next meeting.

Will I get paid for being a member of the panel?

No, you will not be paid, but will receive refreshments during the meetings and travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Is this a support group?

No, this is not a support group; there are a number of voluntary organisations in South Yorkshire that can offer you support for example, Diabetes UK Sheffield Group, Diabetes Voices, The Pituitary Foundation, and Association for Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Disorders (AMEND). Please ask you Clinical Nurse Specialist for more details.