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## Network for local campaigners

**Find out more about our new network that's bringing together local suicide prevention campaigners across England for networking and training.**

Last updated: **20th July 2023**

Important decisions are increasingly taken at a local and regional level that impact on suicide prevention. As part of our new strategy, one of our key priorities is making our voice heard at a national, regional and local level for maximum impact. Our ambition is to make suicide prevention a priority nationally, regionally and locally for governments, so that fewer people die by suicide.

## **What is the network?**

A peer support network of anyone already doing local suicide prevention campaigning in England, coordinated by the Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns team in central office. Members join a zoom meeting every three months to share challenges and learnings, along with receiving any training they've voted will be useful for them.

## **Why are we doing it?**

1. We have a mailing list of campaigners who are up for taking simple campaign actions (like a petition), but it's best practice to have a network of keen campaigners we can reach out to when we have more involved actions people can take (like a consultation).
2. We know the importance of local suicide prevention, and bringing together individuals who are trying to transform how suicide prevention is done in their local areas supports these efforts without taking a large amount of our resource.

## **What does the network work on?**

It's specifically for people doing local campaigning, not national.

In keeping with the Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns team's work, it's specifically for people campaigning for policy or systemic change, not awareness raising, stigma reduction, behaviour change or providing direct support.

It's for people who are already doing their own independent campaigning activity. We don't take responsibility or ownership of these campaigns, beyond asking for confirmation they aren't party political or promote suicide methods or locations, and we're clear members don't represent Samaritans.

## Who's involved?

The Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns team can often work with Samaritans volunteers, supporters, and people with lived experience in quite different ways. In this forum we're keen to break down these barriers (which often aren't real distinctions anyway – many of us have lived experience) and bring people together for mutual discussions.

Every three months we recruit an additional ten people, deliberately aiming to bring on board a mix of volunteers, people with lived experience, and people in different regions of England.



[My favourite thing was] finding out about others doing similar great work all over the place all fighting for better mental health services for all. Really good to hear from a wide range of people in different sectors and the amazing work they all do.

**Feedback from current member**



## Connection to local branches

Whenever we recruit a new member who isn't a Samaritans volunteer, we will let their local branch know, and introduce the member to the most appropriate contact at the branch.

## How to get involved

Fill out our quick application to become a network member for our next round of recruitment.

## Any questions about the network?

Get in touch with our Campaigns Officer, Emily Butler



[campaigning@samaritans.org](mailto:campaigning@samaritans.org)

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