

South East Genomic Laboratory Hub

South East Genomic Medicine Service Alliance

South East Genomic Patient and Public Ambassador Role Profile

Background

The NHS has recently launched the NHS Genomic Medicine Service, which aims to ensure that there is equitable access to genetic and genomic testing as part of routine clinical care. This will be achieved through the network of Genomic Laboratory Hubs and Genomic Medicine Service Alliances that have been established across the country.

The South East Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) provides genetic and genomic testing for a total of 18 acute NHS Trusts and 9 non-acute NHS Trusts in the South London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex region.

The South East Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMSA) is mapped to the same geography as the GLH and is tasked with helping to embed genomics into mainstream clinical care, bringing together multi-disciplinary clinical leadership to make this possible.

What is a Genomic Patient and Public Ambassador?

The South East GMSA and GLH is committed to involving patients and the public at every step, especially during this initial planning stage of the service. We are therefore looking to establish a team of Genomic Patient and Public Ambassadors who will play a key role in the provision of the new genomics service and help us ensure the interests of patients are always at the centre. The Genomic Ambassador team will closely work with the GMSA and GLH Leads and other staff to plan the new service and how genomic medicine is used in the NHS in the future.

To help us coordinate engagement across the region and at partner Trusts, we will invite ambassadors to apply for the role of People and Communities Representative, to act as a lead Ambassador and represent the wider team. The role of the lead will include representing our patients and public at the GMSA & GLH Partnership Board and helping the GMSA and GLH to improve the Ambassador experience.

What's involved?

- Reviewing patient documents e.g. public surveys, and the South East Genomics website to provide feedback and collaborate on producing plain English summaries
- Identifying gaps in awareness of Genomics within the local population
- Join meetings with the team by telephone and video, contributing your ideas and experience
- Working together with other Genomic Patient and Public Ambassadors to shape and define your responsibilities
- Planning public engagement events including contributing to the agenda
- Advising on patient feedback processes
- Producing materials to be used for communications with patients and the public via our website and other channels
- Informing the development of the lead Ambassador role

What's in it for you?

- Experience of team working
- Satisfaction of supporting the delivery of the new NHS genomic service for a population of 8.4 million in our region
- An opportunity to develop personal skills and experience
- An opportunity to socialise and meet other Ambassadors and staff

This role will suit people who...

- Are enthusiastic about genomics and the aims and work of the South East GLH and GMSA
- Are confident in communicating with service users, staff and general members of the public
- Have good attention to detail
- Are able to follow instructions to work independently
- Have a commitment to upholding patient confidentiality

Extra information

Location	To support the involvement of patients and public across the wide geographical region, most activities will be online where possible, but you can receive paper copies and provide written feedback if you prefer.
Time commitment	Ideally we are looking for individuals who can volunteer for a small number of hours each month. We ask ambassadors to commit to a minimum of 6 months with us initially.
Staff contact	Brónach Ferguson 020 7188 7188 ext. 81383 gst-tr.southeastglh@nhs.net
Training/Resources	Task specific training will be provided as you volunteer.
Expenses	For face-to-face activities at South East region locations, out-of-pocket travel costs will be reimbursed and refreshments provided.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or a contract of employment. This job description is intended as an outline of the general areas of activity and may be amended according to the changing needs of the organisation.

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