**Join Manchester Disabled People’s Engagement Panel**

**14 paid positions**

* Are you a disabled person, or do you have lived experience of disability or a long-term health condition?
* Do you live or work in Manchester?
* Could you use your lived experience and knowledge to make Manchester a better place for disabled people – both during and after Covid?
* Would you like to do this whilst developing your skills and getting paid for your time at meetings?

Breakthrough UK, a leading disabled people’s organisation, is recruiting disabled people and people with long term health conditions to join an exciting new panel starting in Manchester very soon. This work is funded for 12 months through a grant from the National Lottery’s Lived Experience Leaders programme.

The Our Manchester Disabled People’s Engagement Panel will be a 'go-to' group where key organisations from across public services and businesses will come to get your advice about being more inclusive. Also on how to deal with Covid-19 fairly and on their plans for the future.

Together, you and other members of the panel will use your lived experience of disability to ensure that Manchester’s services and businesses do not create unexpected barriers to disabled people.

10 panel meetings and 11 peer meetings are planned so far. You will need to be able to attend at least 9 monthly panel meetings and 10 monthly peer meetings each year in order to join.

In return, you’ll receive £65 for each monthly panel meeting you take part in and £40 for each monthly peer meeting. You’ll also get your travel expenses to attend when the meetings start happening face to face. Access and communication support such as sign language interpreters or advocates will be provided.

We particularly welcome applications from disabled people facing racial inequalities, young people and from people who have never done anything like this before.

Your knowledge and experience will support city leaders to identify and act on opportunities to be more inclusive. You will come up with actions together to reduce inequality as Manchester recovers from Covid. This panel will also create a new pool of lived experience leaders in Manchester for the future.

You must live or work within the boundaries of the City of Manchester to join. Your duties during meetings will involve using your lived experience to:

* Work positively with Manchester’s service and business leaders
* Make recommendations for improvement during Covid-19
* Provide guidance and support on how organisations in Manchester can be as inclusive as possible as we come out of Covid
* Develop your leadership skills through involvement in the panel
* Support other members of the group to speak up and grow as leaders
* Join in with communications about the panel’s work

Early meetings will be online due to Covid-19 restrictions. We will support you to get online if you need this. We hope that the meetings will be face to face later in the year.

To apply for a place on the panel, please tell us:

* More about you, including your contact details
* Why you would be a great asset to this panel
* Why you think there should be change in the way our city includes disabled people?
* What access requirements you have. For example whether you require information in easy read, British Sign Language or Braille.

You can tell us these things by:

1. Sending us up to 500 words in your preferred format, or by

2. Sending us a short video or audio file of you talking or signing - up to 5 minutes in length.

If you need more information on any of this, please text or phone Elaine Astley on 07800 557 053

This information is available in alternative formats here – Braille file, audio file, BSL video, accessible pdf and several community languages:

[www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/](http://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/)

**Please apply to join the panel by Tuesday 6th April 2021**

Please email admin@breakthrough-uk.co.uk to apply, WhatsApp your video or audio to 07800 557 053 or send it by post to us at:

Manchester Disabled People’s Engagement Panel, Breakthrough UK, The Kevin Hyett Suite, Abraham Moss Centre, Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Manchester M8 5UF

We look forward to hearing from you!