

Community Champions Recruitment Pack

Key information

- We're Right Here, the campaign for community power, is looking for a group of "Community Champions" to work with us to build the movement for community power.
- We are looking for people who are passionate about the power of communities to drive their own change, have a story to tell about their efforts to work with and empower local people in their area and share our frustration that it shouldn't be so hard to do this kind of work.
- We imagine this will require a commitment of around 10 days a year, but it could be more or less depending on your capacity to engage. Champions' time supporting the campaign will be remunerated at a rate of £350 per day.
- Deadline for expression of interests: **Monday 15th April at 9am**
- Save the date for induction: **Thursday 16th May 10am-4pm in-person**
- Submit a written, audio or video expression of interest via [this Google Form](#).

If you would like to have an informal discussion about the role or learn more about the campaign, please contact [Helen](#) who will put you in touch with one of our community leaders.

About We're Right Here

We're Right Here is a national campaign supporting the movement for community power. We span places and communities across the UK as well as the political spectrum. We are campaigning for policy action to give **communities more control** over the spaces, services and spending decisions which shape their places and futures.

We're Right Here is **community led** – bringing together eight community leaders who lead locally rooted organisations in areas across England. We are united by a belief that we're stuck in a system which isn't working anymore. The central proposal of the campaign is a **Community Power Act** (view our key asks [here](#)).

The Community Power Act is a vision for genuine partnership-working between councils and communities – and for the devolution of power both to local government and local people. It will put in place the structures and rights needed to harness the full range of democratic expression which exists within local places. It will give communities more control over the spaces, services and spending decisions which shape their places and futures. It will ensure that community organisations are trusted service delivery partners, improving the

management of community assets, helping to shape local economic strategies and Neighbourhood Plans, and enabling participatory decision-making.

Why join us?

We know that supporting the movement for community power requires influencing both national public debate and active communities around the country. The success of our campaign so far has been brought about by focusing our efforts on two areas:

1. **Maximising political impact:** We have been engaging with campaign targets (politicians, journalists, wider civil society) to build allies and advocates among those with political sway who can support the Community Power Act to become policy. A lot of this work has been done by eight community leaders whose stories about the change that is possible when communities exercise power to make change in their place are our most impactful argument.
2. **Broadening our base in communities:** Being community-led means we have to be in ongoing dialogue with communities across the UK around the barriers that they face to having influence over spaces, services and spending decisions in their local area. Ultimately, our goal is to increase calls for community power everywhere and at every level.

Moving into an election year that is dominated by ever tighter public budgets and overlapping environmental, healthcare and poverty crises, we need to ramp up our calls for community power. To do this we need to build on the work of our community leaders by bringing more people into the campaign from a diverse range of places and communities. This is why we are now recruiting 10-12 'Community Champions'.

What would I do as a Community Champion?

Each community champions' role will look different depending on what they feel is the best way to spend their time in advocating for community power. We expect that each champion will:

1. Tell their story of community power and why they are campaigning for a Community Power Act, for use on the campaign's communications channels.
2. Play a role in 2-3 national 'focal points' which our campaign is working towards in this election year.
3. Pursue their own influencing/engagement/campaigning efforts to build community power in their area, supported by We're Right Here.

Community Champions will also be invited to take part in other opportunities to help the campaign, such as media interviews, meetings with politicians and speaking at events.

How will Community Champions be supported?

Community Champions will have a direct point of contact with the campaign – a 'Community Builder' whose job is to ensure that each Champion has what they need to play their role. This support will include:

- Hands on support and advice to help develop plans for campaign actions
- Materials, templates and toolkits relating to the campaign
- Support to articulate and share their story of community power, both via public speaking opportunities and social media
- Access to a network of national organisations that support to the campaign (see list here) who have contributed public affairs, policy and comms expertise to the campaign.
- Access to a group of community leaders that have a wealth of experience pushing for community power both nationally and in their local area (see list here).

We will organise an in-person, day-long induction session for Community Champions so they can meet the existing Campaign Leaders and others involved in the campaign and understand more about our plans. This will be on **Thursday May 16th in person so please hold this date in your diary if you apply**. There will also be quarterly online check-in sessions for Community Champions.

Champions' time supporting the campaign will be remunerated at a rate of £350 per day. The We're Right Here team will agree the pro rata fee for any activity in advance of Champions undertaking it. There will also be a flexible budget available to support Champions' local influencing efforts.

What are we looking for in Community Champions?

We want to build a powerful, passionate and committed team of advocates for community power so if that feels like you we would really encourage you to apply.

Within this, we want to hear from anyone who:

- Has a story to tell about their efforts to work with and empower local people in their area and build stronger, more connected communities.
- Shares our frustration that it shouldn't be so hard to do this kind of work.
- Believes that a more supportive and trusting environment for local action would unlock enormous potential in neighbourhoods across England.

We strongly encourage applicants from communities, characteristics and demographics which tend to be marginalised and under-represented in policy-making. Building community power requires shifting power towards those who are socially, economically and institutionally excluded from making decisions about their local area. We know that power is particularly withheld from people with Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, people with working class backgrounds, Disabled people, LGBTQI+ people and women. We will be taking active steps to ensure our team of Community Champions reflects the diversity of the country.

How do I apply?

If you're interested in being a Community Champion, please submit your expression of interest via [this Google form](#). We would like to know:

1. Your name and the name of your organisation if applicable.
2. Your location.
3. Your own story of seeking to build a stronger, more powerful local community. We are particularly interested in hearing about the barriers and frustrations you have had in this journey, alongside hearing about the impact that community-led change has had on your area. For examples of the sort of stories that have inspired the campaign so far, check out those on our website [here](#).
4. One local action, event or intervention you would like to carry out in 2024 to build [calls for community power](#), with the campaign's support.

Your expression of interest can be in the form of a short video, audio recording or in writing. Please keep your expressions of interest short (maximum 500 words for a written submission and maximum 5 minutes for video/audio submission).

The deadline for expressions of interest is **Monday 15th April at 9am**. You will hear back from us about next steps in the week of 20th April.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about the role or learn more about the campaign, please contact [Helen](#) who will put you in touch with one of our [community leaders](#).

We really look forward to hearing from you.