

The British Dietetic Association Volunteer Role Descriptor Secretary; Learning Disabilities Sub Group

Aims and Objectives of the Group

Aims: To raise awareness of the dietetic needs of the Learning Disabilities population and to reduce diet related physical health inequalities. To raise the profile of dietitians working with this client group and provide support and guidance to this network. To represent dietetics within stakeholder and multi-disciplinary and multi-agency forums.

Objectives:

1. To inform and resource dietitians working with people with learning disabilities, both within the LD specialism and within all other areas of dietetics. To raise awareness of the dietetically related health inequalities and associated factors including the implementation of reasonable adjustments.
 2. To provide a learning forum for dietitians working within the LD Dietetics specialism by means of confidential case discussion, shared best practice, literature reviews, CPD opportunities, peer supervision and networking.
 3. To provide a developmental forum for the specialism by means of regular strategy meetings.
 4. To provide expert advice and resource for dietitians practicing within all specialisms when working with a person with a learning disability.
 5. To influence and promote the role of a dietitian in the health and social care sector to help raise awareness the impact of dietitians can make on this client group and reduce the health inequalities of the LD population.
 6. To provide an expert voice within the BDA on the dietetic needs of the LD population.
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What the role has to offer

As the sub group Secretary, you will work closely with the committee to ensure the successful running and organisation of the sub group. As Secretary you'll have a particularly important role as the conduit between your committee and the BDA, providing snapshots of meetings, ensuring that your committee is up to date with its annual governance requirements and working closely with the Chair to ensure that your group is running smoothly.

You'll work with the committee to develop an overview of the strategic developments affecting the specialist group from both within the BDA and externally to the profession. Using your knowledge and skills to represent sub group members interests, advocate for Learning Disabilities and the dietetic profession as a whole.

We don't expect you to do it alone, as Secretary you'll work closely with the Chair and the sub group committee and with the support of the BDA staff team to deliver your sub group aims and objectives.

Through this role you will gain organisational, communication and project management skills, which can translate directly into career development. It will also give you an opportunity to work with colleagues across your speciality, building networks, sharing knowledge and skills.

Main tasks and responsibilities

- Assist the Chair with the running of the Group.
 - Lead on key governance responsibilities, working with the Chair to co-ordinate committee contributions.
 - Co-ordinate committee meetings, AGM and Group communication.
 - Produce meeting agendas and take minutes at committee meetings and AGM, ensuring that minutes are disseminated to key BDA staff contacts and the group members.
 - Oversee the storage of files, ensuring that storage is in line with the BDA's Data Protection policies.
 - Support the committee in delivery of Group projects.
 - Work closely with the BDA's Volunteering Team, seeking advice and guidance where needed.
 - Work with the Chair to co-ordinate committee recruitment.
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Training, support and resources

As the Secretary you'll work closely with the Volunteering Team who offers support, guidance and advice to the Secretary. Support for this role is offered by key committee members including the Chair and Treasurer who work as a team to set strategy, determine priorities and lead the committee to success.

We have a variety of resources, tools and training available to support this role including:

- Full induction with BDA staff and a full handover from the previous Secretary.
 - Training and development opportunities to help build personal and professional skills including workshops, webinars and the BDA's annual volunteer conference.
 - Committee leadership training to help build skills in strategy and governance.
 - Access to our volunteer handbook and Volunteer Hub providing a range of resources and guidance.
 - Regular communications including a monthly volunteer ezine with BDA updates and opportunities.
 - Networking with other volunteers through events, webinars and access to our volunteer forums.
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Length of service and commitment

You will be elected for a two-year term of office and hope that you will be able to stay in the role throughout this term. There is the option to extend for an additional two-year term. We hope that reasonable notice would be given if you are no longer able to fulfil this role, as we appreciate that circumstances can change.

There are a number of training and development opportunities available, including a detailed induction with BDA staff and governance training to be undertaken upon commencement of each term.

Committee meetings are held regularly and can be attended virtually if required. There is a varying and flexible amount of work in between meetings which is dependent on the strategy, workplans and projects agreed to by the committee.

The sub group holds a minimum of one event for members a year which includes the Annual General Meeting. It is typical for the committee to attend these events.



The Association
of UK Dietitians

Recruitment method

To apply for this role please submit a nomination form and a copy of your CV on our website:

<https://www.bda.uk.com/news-campaigns/get-involved/volunteers/volunteering-opportunities.html>

Nominees must be a member of the group and provide the names and signatories of two BDA members to support their nomination.

If you would like an informal, confidential discussion about the role and the nomination process, please contact Briony Caffrey at learningdisabilities@bda.uk.com.
