

# The British Dietetic Association volunteer position

## Chair; Public Health Specialist Group

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### Aims and Objectives of the Group

- To provide a forum through which members can network and share ideas, information, good practice, and expertise
  - To support members in accessing a range of appropriate professional development activities and opportunities for Public Health Dietetic practice, and where appropriate to advocate for this provision
  - To promote high standards of practice in the field of Public Health Nutrition and Health Promotion Dietetics, through both defining and developing competencies of the dietetic workforce across a range of practice settings and roles
  - To be an effective champion for Public Health Nutrition within and on behalf of the BDA, by identifying priority issues and themes that the network can promote, raising debate and discussion among BDA members, and shaping BDA policy, position statements and press releases
  - To contribute expert advice to the BDA in responding to national policy and professional development issues, including access to expert leads on specific topics
  - To link with BDA specialist groups and other groups in promoting Public Health Nutrition and professional development issues
  - The Group shall cover the whole of the UK and is expected to accommodate subgroups reflecting the membership within each of the four UK countries, where relevant
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### What the post has to offer

As the specialist group chair, you will lead and guide a motivated committee of volunteers, who work as a team to set group strategy, deliver objectives and provide group members with resources, education and networking opportunities.

You will have 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 specialist group members interests, advocate for the Public Health specialism and the dietetic profession as a whole. We don't expect you to do it alone, as Chair you'll work closely with your specialist group committee and with the support of the BDA staff team to deliver your specialist group aims and objectives.

Through this position you will gain leadership, mediation 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.

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### Main duties and responsibilities

- Provide leadership, motivation and coordination for the specialist group committee. Working closely with the Treasurer and Secretary to lead the committee to achieve its aims and objectives.
- Support and encourage the committee in the delivery of specialist group work.
- Work closely with the BDA's Volunteer Officer (Groups and Branches), seeking advice and guidance where needed.

- Lead and encourage group committee members to work with the BDA staff team to seek advice and guidance, provide expertise and contribute to projects.
  - Understand and uphold the specialist group responsibilities within its own constitution and BDA governance.
  - Chair specialist group committee meetings, AGM's and EGM's ensuring that all required business is covered and that all committee members have a fair opportunity to contribute.
  - Work with the committee and specialist group members to ensure that there is a committee succession plan in place, including recruitment of new committee members when needed.
  - Communicate with other specialist group committees and the BDA staff team in order to collaborate and share best practice.
  - Where applicable coordinate the specialist group committee to represent group members to internal and external stakeholders, providing expertise, best practice and guidance for consultations, policy development and practice.
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## Training Support and Resources

As the Chair you'll work closely with the Volunteer Officer (Groups and Branches) who offers support, guidance and advice to the postholder. Support for this role is offered by key committee members including the Vice Chair, Secretary 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 postholder.
  - Training and development opportunities to help build personal and professional skills including workshops, webinars and the BDA's annual volunteer conference.
  - Chair's 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 have the option to extend for an additional two-year term. Reasonable notice can be given if you are no longer able to fulfil this role.

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 4-5 times per year. Committee meetings are usually held on a weekday evening by video call. There is a varying and flexible amount of work in between times. The PHSG aims to hold a minimum of 2 events for members per year, one will include the Annual General Meeting, it is typical for the committee to attend these events.

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## Appointment method

To apply for this role please submit a [nomination form](#) and a copy of your CV to [Phnsg@bda.uk.com](mailto:Phnsg@bda.uk.com) by **Friday 15 July**. 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 Carlena Probert-Baulch, Volunteer Manager at [c.probert-baulch@bda.uk.com](mailto:c.probert-baulch@bda.uk.com).

For more information and resources about the role please visit the [BDA Volunteer Hub](#) and log in to your BDA account.

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