**Opportunity to join the Black Asian Minority Ethnic Research Advisory Group and make a difference to health research in Greater Manchester**

Are you a community leader in Greater Manchester with a passion to improve health in your community? Would you like to advise researchers who aim to improve treatments for conditions such as cancer, arthritis, psoriasis and asthma?

The Black Asian Minority Ethnic Research Advisory Group (BRAG) and [Vocal](https://cmft.sharepoint.com/sites/VocalTeam/Shared%20Documents/Projects/Core%20Projects/0021BRAG-%20BRAG/BAMER%20research%20reference%20panel/Important%20Documents/wearevocal.org) are looking for two new BRAG members. If you’d like to speak up for your community and work with research organisations to ensure racial equity in research we’d love to hear from you.

If you are an established Community Leader, (i.e. you lead a community group or organisation) who wants to make a difference to health research, please get in touch.

Payment for this role is in line with national guidelines (£25 an hour). You need to be able to commit to attending ten two-hour meetings each year.

**More information**

There’s more detailed information over the page, including the

* Role profile
* Training & support
* BRAG’s objectives
* The context & background

**Next steps**

If you’d like to have a chat with Annie (Vocal) or any of the BRAG members please email annie.keane@mft.nhs.uk

To apply please email annie.keane@mft.nhs.uk by **Monday 6th February** 2023 with some information about you and why would like to be a part of BRAG. Informal interviews will take place in late February 2023.

**BRAG Member Role profile**

The role involves

* Attending monthly meetings (the last Monday of the month 10am-12pm), these meetings alternate between in person and online. In-person meetings take place in central Manchester (travel expenses are provided).
* Reading material in advance of meetings when required.
* Providing advice to ensure that the experiences and insight of black and minority ethnic communities are embedded into the development and delivery of research and of public involvement and engagement activities.
* Championing patient and public involvement in health research to communities in Greater Manchester.
* Supporting and reviewing strategic objectives in relation to diversity and inclusion.
* There are also occasional opportunities to work more closely with Vocal for example to develop training or resources for researchers or to work more closely and provide community input to a research project.

**Training & support**

* We’ll provide an induction to help familiarise you with BRAG, Vocal’s work and the research environment.
* We’ll work with you to identify any additional training needs that would be useful for this role.
* We’re committed to making our opportunities as inclusive and accessible as possible. If there is anything that we can do to enable you to apply for this opportunity please let us know.

**BRAG’s objectives**

* To work in partnership with NIHR BRC research infrastructure to embed racial equity in research and research involvement.
* To advise researchers & work with Vocal team and other community organisations on specific research projects of interest & relevance to BRAG members.
* To support Vocal/BRC communication campaigns through stories and examples of activities.

**Context & background**

BRAG grew out of a partnership between Vocal and Greater Manchester BME Network. Vocal and the Greater Manchester BME Network developed and delivered the [Community Sandpit](https://www.wearevocal.org/wlrs/case-studies/community-sandpit-innovating-health-research/) in 2018. The event brought together local voluntary and community organisations and researchers to look at key health issues and concerns that affect Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. Vocal then worked with a number of attendees to set up BRAG in 2019

Vocal and BRAG’s work focuses on translational health research delivered by the [NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/) (MBRC). This includes laboratory-based research and clinical trials that aim to aims to identify and develop new treatments for diseases such as cancer, musculoskeletal and skin conditions and respiratory illnesses. The Centre has recently received funding from the National Institute of Health Research for the next five years. The MBRC has a Health Inequalities Steering Group and will be establishing an Inclusive Research Oversight Board Oversight which will link to BRAG.

**Further sources of information**

**Inclusive Research** – Vocal and BRAG worked to develop an online course select the Inclusive Research option from the list here [Lifelong Learning - University of Manchester](https://courses.manchester.ac.uk/webapps/bbgs-cloud-portal-BB5e13cac4dee6a/app/portal/catalog?locale=en&dir=ltr)

BRAG pages on the Vocal website

[Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Research Advisory Group](https://wearevocal.org/opportunities/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-research-advisory-group-brag/)

[Improve your research with BRAG](https://wearevocal.org/wlrs/listen-up/improve-your-research-with-brag/)

[We are not hard to reach, we are here, we are visible](https://wearevocal.org/wlrs/listen-up/we-are-not-hard-to-reach-we-are-here-we-are-visible/)

[BRAG Top Tips for researchers](https://wearevocal.org/wlrs/resources/top-tips-for-researchers/)