



Care Services & Research Committee Expert Recruitment



Welcome from the Chair of Care Services & Research Committee

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining the Care Services & Research Committee as a Committee Expert.

About Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and the Association

MND is a fatal and often rapidly progressing neurological condition affecting more than 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time. It causes messages from motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord to stop reaching muscles, leading to weakness, stiffness, and wasting. Most people lose the ability to move, speak, and eventually breathe. A third of people die within a year of diagnosis, and more than half within two years. There is currently no cure.

The MND Association is a team of staff, trustees, members and volunteers committed to providing support for people living with MND, their families and carers. Our vision is a world free from MND and our community of over 12,000 members and 13,000 volunteers is a powerful local and national voice in driving beneficial innovation and keeping people with MND and those who care for them at the heart of everything we do in trying to deliver our vision.

The Association strives to improve the lives of people affected by MND—now and in the future. We fund research, enhance care, and provide vital support for people living with MND, their families, and carers.

This is an exciting and potentially life-changing time for the MND community. Increased awareness and investment in research are paving the way for new treatment options, offering hope and greater choice for those affected. While our charity has grown rapidly and played a critical role in driving this progress, there is still much more to do. Our new 2025–2030 strategy focuses on three impact goals: accelerating progress in treatments, influencing high-quality care, and ensuring people with MND and their carers remain central to all we do.

Why We Are Recruiting Now

This is a pivotal moment for the MND community. Unprecedented public awareness and fundraising success have significantly broadened our research portfolio and increased the complexity of our clinical services. However, this growth brings heightened expectations from our cause community and the public.



We recognise that a more complex environment requires even more rigorous governance. As we navigate new territories in research and care, we are committed to ensuring our oversight is as robust and transparent as possible. We are seeking two Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who can provide the high-level scrutiny and external perspective necessary to meet these challenges.

About the Care Services & Research Committee

This Committee is one of five major sub-committees to the main unitary Board of the MNDA, and provides independent expert advice, constructive challenge, and strategic insight to support the governance and delivery of our organisation-wide strategy in the areas of Care Services and Research. This is an extensive portfolio of responsibilities and committee members bring professional, lived, and system-level perspectives to ensure decisions and recommendations to the main Board are robust, evidence-based, and aligned with the needs of our cause community and health systems across the UK.

Committee Expert Roles

We are seeking two specialists to strengthen our capability during this period of significant opportunity:

- Role 1: Research Impact – Advising on how research delivers real-world benefits and informs strategic decision-making.
- Role 2: Operational Transformation & Commissioning – Providing expertise on service planning, NHS frameworks, and Value-Based Healthcare models in the devolved nations.

Value and Professional Development

Joining the committee provides a platform to apply your technical expertise to national MND strategy, ensuring care and research initiatives are evidence-based and impactful. As a non-voting member, you will gain a deeper understanding of charity governance and the complexities of the UK health and social care landscape while collaborating with senior clinicians and strategic leaders. This role offers the opportunity to develop board-level scrutiny skills and broaden your professional perspective across the four nations, contributing your specialist insight to help improve outcomes for the MND community.

Dr Shaun McGee

Chair Care Services & Research Committee



Role Description

Job title: Committee Subject Matter Expert

Reports to: Care Services and Research Committee Chair

Status: Non-voting Member

Purpose: To provide technical scrutiny and specialised insight, ensuring the Association's strategic direction for MND services and research is evidence-based and high-impact.

Core Responsibilities

- **Expert Scrutiny:** Offer evidence-based advice on specialised care, support services, and research activities to guide Committee decision-making.
- **Strategic Input:** Help refine strategic initiatives to ensure they align with current best practice and the latest developments in the MND field.
- **Horizon Scanning:** Monitor and report on emerging trends, research breakthroughs, and policy changes that may influence the Association's work.
- **Collaborative Governance:** Attend meetings to help the Committee navigate complex technical issues and build consensus on key recommendations.
- **External Liaison:** Assist in fostering partnerships with researchers and external organisations to advance the Association's mission.

Research Impact Subject Matter Expert

Essential Skills & Expertise

1. Research Impact & Evaluation

- **Impact Assessment:** Extensive experience evaluating real-world health or social care research, including outcomes measurement, benefits realisation, and knowledge mobilisation.
- **Evidence Translation:** Proven ability to translate academic research into actionable strategic insights for decision-makers.
- **Framework Proficiency:** Mastery of impact frameworks such as REF case studies, logic models, Theory of Change, or implementation science.

2. UK Health & Care Ecosystems

- **Landscape Knowledge:** Deep understanding of the UK research and innovation landscape, specifically how evidence informs national policy, commissioning, and service improvement.
- **Institutional Familiarity:** Knowledge of key bodies, including NIHR, Health Foundation, and devolved nation equivalents (e.g., Public Health Scotland).

3. Strategic Analysis

- **Evidence Synthesis:** Skill in synthesising complex qualitative and quantitative data into clear interpretations for non-technical audiences.
- **Horizon Scanning:** Ability to identify emerging research priorities and opportunities for strategic influence.

4. Engagement & Influence

- **Stakeholder Relations:** Experience collaborating with senior leaders, policymakers, and researchers to shape or evaluate programmes.
- **Constructive Challenge:** A confident communicator capable of providing independent, objective challenge within a governance setting.

5. Equity, Inclusion & PPI

- **Co-production:** Commitment to meaningful Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) and collaboration with service users.



- **Equitable Impact:** Ability to ensure research benefits and outcomes are distributed fairly across diverse communities.

Desirable Experience

- **Governance:** Previous service on a non-profit, NHS, academic, or public sector advisory panel or committee.
- **Research Leadership:** Senior experience within a funding body, research institution, or health policy organisation focusing on monitoring and evaluation.
- **Implementation Science:** Expertise in supporting organisations to adopt evidence-based practices, including navigating cultural and operational barriers.
- **Commissioning:** Insight into how research is prioritised and funded at a national or regional level.

Role Summary: Operational Transformation & Strategic Commissioning Subject Matter Expert

Purpose: To provide senior-level insight into the design, commissioning, and delivery of care and support services across the UK, ensuring the Association's service models are practical, scalable, and value-driven.

Essential Skills & Expertise

1. Service Redesign & Transformation

- **Change Leadership:** Proven track record in leading significant health or social care transformation, including pathway redesign, integrated care, and digital or workforce optimisation.
- **Operational Analysis:** Ability to diagnose operational issues and provide strategic insight into implementation risks and feasibility.
- **Outcome Evaluation:** Experience measuring transformation against quality, safety, cost, and performance metrics.

2. NHS England Strategic Commissioning

- **Framework Knowledge:** Deep understanding of the NHS England landscape, including Integrated Care Systems (ICS), Integrated Care Boards (ICB), and provider collaboratives.
- **Commissioning Cycles:** Familiarity with prioritisation, procurement, and contracting models (e.g., blended or outcomes-based contracts).
- **Policy Translation:** Ability to interpret national reforms and translate them into operational considerations for the Committee.

3. Value-Based Healthcare (VBH) & Devolved Nations

- **VBH Proficiency:** Understanding of Value-Based Healthcare models (notably in Wales and Northern Ireland), focusing on population outcomes over volume.
- **Frameworks:** Familiarity with PROMs/PREMs, reducing unwarranted variation, and outcome-led pathways.
- **Cross-Border Context:** Ability to contextualise advice within the distinct governance and budgetary structures of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

4. Strategic Analysis & Governance

- **Evidence Synthesis:** Skill in distilling complex operational and financial data into balanced, evidence-based advice for non-technical audiences.

- Risk Identification: Confidence in identifying the system-wide implications and risks of proposed service changes.

5. Influence & Constructive Challenge

- Collaborative Leadership: Experience engaging senior leaders, commissioners, and clinicians to build consensus.
- Independent Scrutiny: Ability to provide objective, constructive challenge within a formal governance setting.

Desirable Experience

- Governance: Previous service on a non-profit, NHS, or health system board or advisory panel.
- Senior Leadership: Experience within an ICB, Trust, Health Board, or national improvement body.
- Data-Driven Improvement: Background in health economics, operational modelling, or using analytics to inform population-based planning and pathway design.

Terms of appointment

Time Commitment

- Preparation for and attendance at 4 Committee meetings per year.
- Additional reading or ad-hoc advisory input as required.
- Term of appointment: 3 years.

Remuneration

These positions are unremunerated and offered on a voluntary basis. They provide a unique opportunity to contribute specialist expertise at a strategic level, influence work with UK-wide impact, and shape decisions that improve outcomes for people and communities. Committee Experts play an important and highly valued role in our governance, and we welcome applications from individuals who want to make a meaningful contribution to our mission.

Reasonable expenses incurred in the course of Committee business will be reimbursed in line with the Association's expenses policy.



How to Apply

Please submit:

- Your CV (maximum 3 pages)
- A covering letter (approximately 1 page / 500 words) that sets out your motivation for the role and describes the specific experience you can bring to the appointment.
 - Your expertise relevant to the role
 - Your experience applying this expertise in a strategic or advisory context
 - What you would bring to the Committee

Applications should be sent to: governance@mndassociation.org

Deadline for applications: *Friday 27th February 2026*

Interviews will take place: *9th & 10th March 2026*

Recruitment Principles

We are committed to:

- Open and transparent recruitment
- Diversity, inclusion, and equality of opportunity
- Ensuring a range of expertise and lived experiences are represented
- Managing conflicts of interest appropriately

All appointments are made on merit following fair assessment.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the roles informally before submitting your application, Please call Lauren Tilbury on **01604 796104** or email lauren.tilbury@mndassociation.org. She will be happy to arrange an informal conversation with the Committee Chair and / or relevant lead Executive Director .