

# About the Buttle UK Advisor Network

## Vision and scope

Our Advisor Network informs, shapes and helps develop our grant giving, decision making and strategic planning. Its membership consists of professionals and families with learned and lived experiences of the issues Buttle UK is trying to tackle through its grants.

Buttle UK draws on the Network to:

- gain insights from a range of lived and professional experience as to how Buttle UK could create greater impact for children and young people
- have detailed discussions about emerging trends and developments affecting vulnerable children and young people, to help Buttle UK staff understand the potential reasons and contexts behind these
- support Buttle UK staff to make informed decisions on operational matters
- provide advice to influence how Buttle UK's strategy, programmes, projects and policies develop
- enhance our learning, evaluation and influencing work through the co-design and co-production of issue-based projects
- take part in Buttle UK's media activities and help promote our fundraising activities

In turn, Network members benefit from:

- insights into the grant giving sector and Buttle UK's processes in particular
- opportunities and support to develop skills, confidence and experience
- having a platform to share their experiences and expertise with decision makers within Buttle UK, our partners and policy makers
- opportunities to meet and learn from others working in similar organisations or experiencing similar challenges
- the knowledge that they are contributing to improved outcomes for children and young people by helping us to maximise the effectiveness and impact of our work

The aim of the Network is to feed into the development and delivery of Buttle UK's work through a range of feedback, consultation and co-production approaches. It invites open and constructive feedback from young people, families and

professionals. It does not provide a route for professionals or families to challenge grant decisions or make complaints about their individual cases.

Members of the Network will not be involved in making decisions on grant applications, and engaging in the Network will not affect the outcomes of members' grant applications.

## Membership

The Advisor Network is made up of professionals and families with learned and lived experiences of the issues Buttle UK is trying to tackle through its grants. This includes support workers who have successfully applied for Buttle UK grants, and family members who have received Buttle UK grants. It might also include families who would be eligible for a Buttle UK grant but have not yet received one. Members must be aged 16 and over.

Professionals and families who are interested in joining the Network are asked to complete a sign-up form which collects their contact details, information on the issues and types of activities they would want to engage in, and an EDI monitoring form. This enables us to monitor the diversity of network members and undertake targeted recruitment to address any gaps in representation, if needed.

We aim to have at least 100 professionals and 40 family members signed up to the Network at any one time.

Details of Network members will be stored on a secure database, including their contact information, whether they are a referrer or family, their contact preferences, and the issues/activities they are happy to engage in. Please see our [Privacy Policies](#) for further information on how we hold and use your data.

Buttle UK will review membership of the Advisor Network on an annual basis. Existing members will be invited to confirm whether or not they would like to continue as a member each year, and Buttle UK may remove members who have been inactive for a significant period of time or whose contact details are out-of-date. New members will be recruited on a rolling basis.

## How the Advisor Network functions

Buttle UK engages with the Advisor Network through a range of methods. These include one-off surveys, focus groups, consultation events and requests for case studies, through to co-producing research and projects focussed on key issues that arise from our work.

Participation in any activity is entirely voluntary and members can choose to take part in whichever activities they have an interest in, or have capacity to support. Buttle UK sometimes targets specific members of the Network if we are working on an issue relevant to a particular group, for example, single parents or refugees. At other times, we open up opportunities to the full Network membership.

Research, projects and consultation activities may also involve members of Buttle UK's Youth Panel. The Youth Panel is made up of young people who have relevant lived experience and offers accountability to the children and young people Buttle UK serves. It is anticipated that some of the activities and projects delivered with Advisor Network members will be co-produced with members of the Youth Panel.

## Payment

Payment will be offered to adults and young people who participate in Buttle UK's co-production activities in a personal capacity (i.e. not as part of a paid job).

Referrers and other professionals will not be paid for their time, as we expect that they will be participating in activities as part of their paid employment.

Buttle UK will cover reasonable expenses for all members of the Network who engage in our co-production activities.

For more information on who we can offer payment to, what we can offer payment for, and rates and methods of payment, please see our [Co-Production Payment Policy](#).

## Further information

For further information about the Advisor Network, please contact:

Charlotte Robey-Turner  
Co-Production and Youth Engagement Manager  
[coproduction@buttleuk.org](mailto:coproduction@buttleuk.org)  
07873 705 568