

National Executive Committee Members

Overview

As a member of the National Executive Committee, you can contribute to the sector's strategic body bringing together representatives from the Area Committee's across Wales to help set One Voice Wales policy agenda. You will oversee its sound governance arrangements and elect its senior leadership team and committees.

Members will share good practice with other Area Committee representatives, Welsh Government, and media. You will discuss developments with other national opinion formers, and One voice Wales staff.

This is an important national role, promoting the reputation and good standing of the sector. It also requires the post holder to liaise with Area Committee colleagues and promote One Voice Wales to local Councils.

You need to be well informed about the sector, well connected to your Area Committee, passionate about strengthening the sector as a whole and able to look beyond the interests of your own Council. You need to be a good communicator, confident about speaking to your colleagues and able to cascade information from One Voice Wales to your local networks.

As One Voice Wales continues to embrace digital solutions you will be comfortable with accessing information from websites and communicating via digital means.

As a National Executive Committee Member, you will become further involved in One Voice Wales work in several ways, depending on your skills, ambitions, and desires.

As a National Executive Committee Member, you will become involved in one or more of the following of One Voice Wales committees, Strategy Co-ordination Committee, Audit Committee, Finance, Resources and General Purposes Committee, Policy Committee, Larger Local Councils Forum and Smaller Councils Forum.

As a committee member, you will be expected to contribute to the development of that committee's work programme and remit, rather than represent the interests of your Area Committee or Council.

You should have knowledge and interest in the committee's work you are involved with. You should be prepared to discuss openly, supportively, and frankly the committee's work and take collective ownership of the decisions it arrives at democratically.

Role

Councillors will be familiar with the key elements of the National Executive Committee member role, as these in many ways reflect the role of local Councillors.

However, it is useful to remember that, while there are many similarities, One Voice Wales is not a local Council. It is the national membership body for local Councils. There will be times when National Executive Committee members may need to discuss issues or take actions that are unique to the role.

Key elements of the role include:

(a) Representation

Members represent their Area Committees and member Councils at National Executive Committee. Additionally, members support One Voice Wales and disseminate decisions of the National Executive Committee to their Area Committee's and member Councils.

National Executive Committee members are also national ambassadors for the sector. They can be asked to contribute to media releases, meetings with stakeholders including government departments or ministers. Even when not officially acting on a national stage, as members of National Executive Committee they set the example to others in terms of standards of behaviour and work ethic wherever they are.

(b) Leadership

National Executive Committee members make decisions regarding the work of One Voice Wales. This is taken with a strategic view and with the aim of providing oversight and direction. They do not micromanage the work of the organisation or staff. Through this they ensure that One Voice Wales continues to provide the best possible offer to members.

Through the work of National Executive Committee, members also provide leadership to the whole sector. They balance representing their local members views with making decisions in the national interest of all local Councils.

Members are aware that their decisions can directly impact on member Councils and the reputation of the sector. Therefore, they actively engage in debate and vote at meetings of National Executive Committee,

(c) Information

Members receive a wide range of information on topics relevant to the work of the Council. They also provide information to National Executive Committee from their own networks, knowledge, and experiences. They use this information to actively make connections National Executive between the work programme of One Voice Wales and Area Committee's.

Members also work with and share information across a wide range both national and local partners.

(d) Responsibility

National Executive Committee members take responsibility for decisions at National Executive Committee. They support decisions of the National Executive Committee and the work of One Voice Wales. Members also encourage new members of the National Executive Committee to come forward.

Approximate Time Commitment

Together with reading papers, keeping up to date with sector developments, the time commitment is around 10 days a year that sets One Voice Wales overall strategic direction.

All committee members are elected for a two-year term and receive no remuneration.

Skills and Experience

One Voice Wales recognises the huge value to National Executive Committee of having a broad range of expertise, points of view and personal experiences. There is no formal range of skills or expertise required for the role, everyone is equal no matter their background or length of service. The list below is a summary of some of the key attributes that Council members might bring to the role.

(a) Judgement

This publication is an attempt to summarise the key elements of the role and attributes of a Council member, but the role will vary and will always have ambiguities. Members' experiences as a local Councillor will have equipped them to exercise their own judgement. National Executive Committee Members will need to balance a range of (possibly competing) views from member Councils, their Area Committee, One Voice Wales officers and their own personal views. Any decision is theirs to make, and they are responsible for using their own better judgement for how to act, seeking support where they need it.

(b) Values

National Executive Committee plays a vital role in shaping the values and vision of One Voice Wales, and members will uphold these values. One Voice Wales vision statement can be found in the current strategic business plan. (Corporate Strategy and Operational Delivery Plan.)

(c) Communication

In their local role, Council members already need to be good communicators. On National Executive Committee, all members contribute to discussions and support others to contribute. Not only can they speak confidently and concisely at meetings, but they also are willing to contribute to written documents and reports. Members and officers support each other to develop these skills. The

National Executive Committee is a supportive environment in which these skills can be practiced and developed.

(d) Approach

Council members balance a range of approaches such as being challenging but constructive; honest but supportive; dedicated and loyal but open and willing to change. They also keep up to date –through training and development, following national news and keep abreast of changes in the sector.

(e) Personality

All members bring this. It is vital to the vibrancy of the National Executive Committee.