# INTRODUCTION

This paper gives you the information you need to decide whether you wish to apply to join your local Regional Advice Network Steering Group:

* Pages 1 and 2 describe the role of the RAN and the Steering Group
* Page 3 sets out the Steering Group recruitment process, including deadline, and any particular priorities it has for its new membership.
* Page 4 has a simple EOI form for you to complete and return to AdviceNetworks@gov.wales by **Monday 10 January 2022**.

# Regional Advice Networks

## Overview

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| Regional Advice Network VisionEffective, quality-assured social welfare information and advice available to everyone across the region. |

1. Regional Advice Networks (RANs) bring together social welfare information and advice providers, planners, funders and stakeholders from across the region. They aim to facilitate access to justice, tackle poverty, inequality and financial exclusion, mitigate the negative impacts of austerity and promote well-being by:
* developing a strategic and co-ordinated approach to the availability of high quality social welfare information and advice services;
* facilitating collaboration between providers, funders and wider stakeholders;
* supporting the inter-organisational referral processes and joint services;
* enabling strategic and operational links between providers and promoting a ‘whole person’ approach to service development;
* contributing the region’s priorities and insights to the work of Welsh Government and the National Advice Network in shaping the strategic approach to information and advice provision across Wales.

## Principles of Operation

1. The Network should:
* reflect the range and diversity of the regional advice sector – including small, large, generalist and specialist organisations - and be informed by community engagement;
* comprise those individuals best placed to contribute to the Network’s development, irrespective of grade, organisation or position;
* be collaborative and client-focussed, working towards the delivery of the right services for the region, regardless of which organisations deliver them.
* be accessible and inclusive, offering a variety of opportunities to participate including face-to-face and remote meetings/events, themed working groups, consultation/evidence gathering activities and information sharing.

## The Membership

1. Members of the Regional Advice Network (RAN) attend in a personal, as opposed to representative, capacity. They bring a wealth and diversity of views, priorities, perspectives, experiences and expertise to the development of the regional advice sector.
2. A Code of Conduct applies to everyone involved in the RAN in order to:
* clarify expectations of the RAN and its Members;
* encourage active participation in and ownership of the RAN by its membership;
* promote high standards of conduct on the part of RAN Members and Stakeholders;
* protect the best interests and potential of the RAN.

# The Steering Group

## Steering Group Membership

1. The Steering Group comprises no more than 7 individuals. They may be elected at an annual meeting, recruited via an Expression of Interest process in line with priorities identified in a Steering Group Audit, or co-opted for specific purposes. Collectively, Steering Group members play a leadership role on the Network. They participate in a personal capacity and the Code of Conduct applies.
2. The Steering Group is responsible for electing a Chair from amongst its number, approving RAN membership, progressing the work of the RAN, determining events and activities, and working with Welsh Government, the NAN and wider Stakeholders to develop the RAN and wider advice sector.

## Meetings

1. The Steering Group aims to meet quarterly in order to give direction to the Network’s progress - developing events and activities to support the Network’s development, strengthen Member and Stakeholder engagement, progress Regional Action Priorities and build relationships across the Network and beyond. The Steering Group and RAN aim to reach decisions by consensus.

## Steering Group recruitment priorities

1. Demographic diversity is fundamental to strong, inclusive leadership. RAN Steering Groups aim to reflect diversity in terms of: age; disability; gender; race; religion and belief; sexual orientation.
2. A cross-section of roles and local connections will increase the Steering Group’s strategic perspective and credibility. As a whole, it should include individuals with a mix of:
* frontline, operational, managerial and strategic roles
* connections to all parts of the region, including urban and rural areas
* third, public and private sector experience
* large and small organisations experience

# Expressions of Interest process and priorities

1. Individuals with an involvement in the information and advice sector, and a commitment to progressing the RAN’s ambitions and activities, are encouraged to complete the attached form and return it to:
* **AdviceNetworks@gov.wales** **by Monday 10 January 2022**
1. EOIs will all be considered, in confidence, by the Steering Group with the support of Welsh Government’s Advice Services. The outcome will be communicated in mid January.

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| **Name** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **County/ies in which you live and work** |  |
| **Current role and relationship to local advice sector** |  |
| **Interest in joining the RAN Steering Group, along with relevant skills and experience** (max 500 words) |
|  |
| **Signature** |  |

**PLEASE RETURN TO** **AdviceNetworks@gov.wales** **by Monday 10 January 2022**