



Red Godfrey-Sagoo

Marie Curie Expert Voices Group Member

Marie Curie

Candidate Statement

Over the past two decades, Red has witnessed first-hand the tragic impact of service-users being ignored within programs and services for diverse and geographically opposite communities.

She has supported individuals and communities dealing with a wide range of challenges, including: Health & Disabilities, Homelessness, Education, Community Injustices, Disaster Services and the European refugee crisis.

Typically, she saw that the “voices” of those being supported and served were systematically ignored, resulting at best in chaos and at worst, loss of life. Where the inequality of services became intertwined with the financial, cultural, religious and gender based demographics of the location.

Her personal experience regarding the power of “owning your voice” come from her recently dealing with “End of Life Care”. Here, she saw one immediate family member struggling to gain necessary support to remain at home for their final days - a struggle which resulted in the family member dying alone in a hospital bed. The other provided all the resources and support to pass away peacefully surrounded by family in a hospice. These were two journeys with the same outcome, but with vastly different results due to the inequality of the support – and different grieving processes for those left behind.

These disparate experiences led to Red’s involvement at Marie Curie within the Expert Voices Group. A group which provides support and guidance not just to the organisation but to the wider context of “End of Life Care” and where lessons learnt bring forward collaborations for change and advocacy.

Professionally, Red brings the knowledge and experience of senior leadership for service delivery across multi-million-pound entities, to organisations reliant 100% on a partner and volunteer workforce with

challenging budgets. In her career, she has consistently tackled tough conversations on service inequalities and systemic failures in creating advocacy and community engagement spaces.

Having led bipartisan committees at government and community levels whilst serving on over a dozen Third Sector Boards as Trustee, she is a champion of collaborations which are inclusive of all stakeholders: "Success is only achieved when all three components for delivery of services are engaged. The service user, the service provider and the service organiser/funder. Ultimately the start of these collaborations must begin with the service user, the experienced voices which have the ability to change and improve others' lives irrespective of circumstance".