



# A Research Funder's Perspective


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# A Research Funder's Perspective

## *Patient Involvement at Make 2nds Count*

- Why patient involvement matters to us
  - How patient involvement is embedded in our research programme
  - What our patient advocates say
  - How impact is assessed in grant applications
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# Why patient involvement matters to us

## *Research aims and objectives*

**Our aim is to build a research programme that amplifies our community voice and helps people live longer, better lives alongside secondary breast cancer**

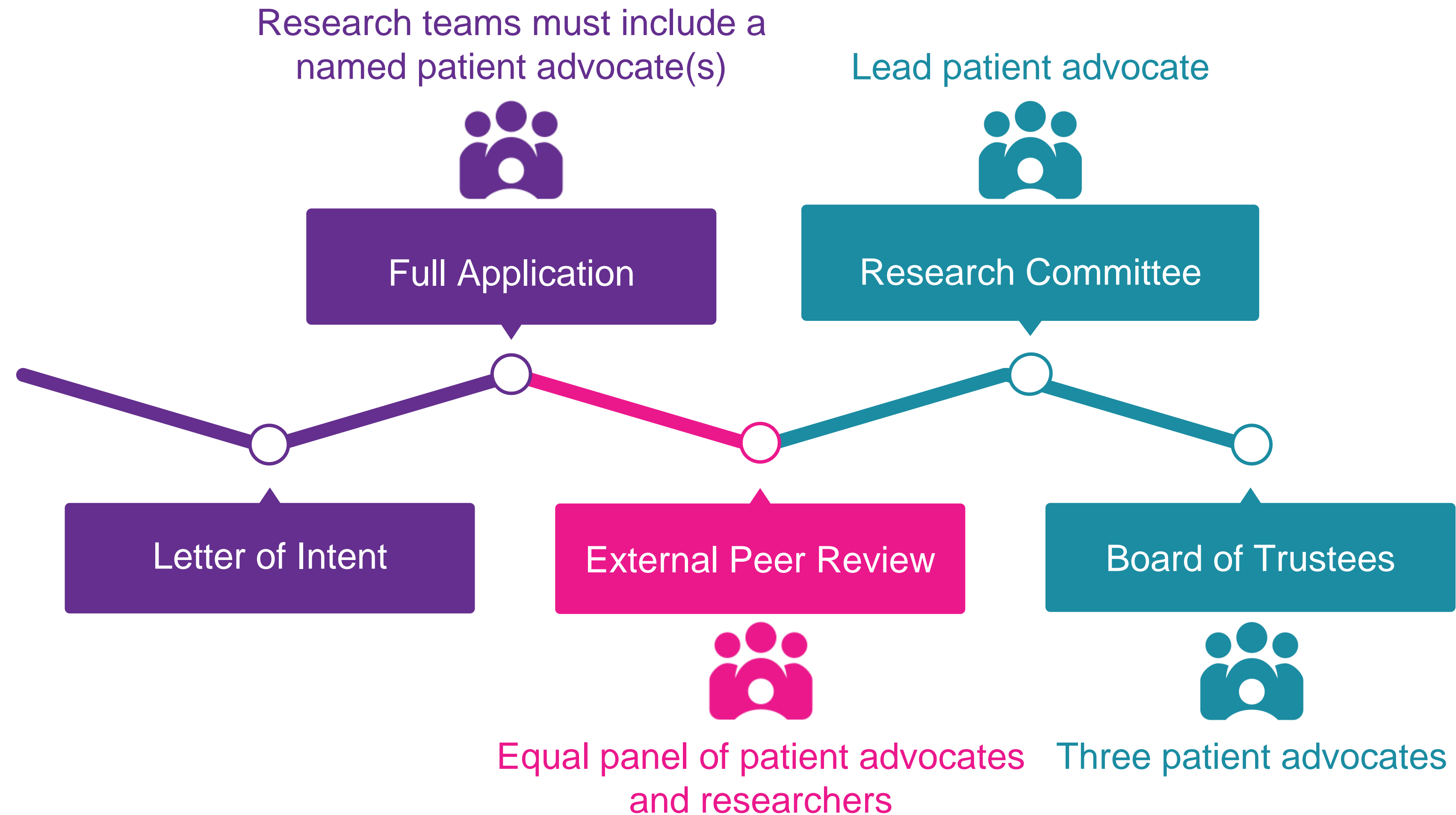
We will achieve this by supporting good quality research that actively involves patients and delivers 'near-time' patient benefit, where patient benefit is defined as:

*A positive effect on - or change to - the care, services, treatment, mental wellbeing or quality of life of the secondary breast cancer community*



# Patient involvement at Make 2nds Count

*The research funding process*



# What does patient advocacy mean to you?

## *External peer reviewers*

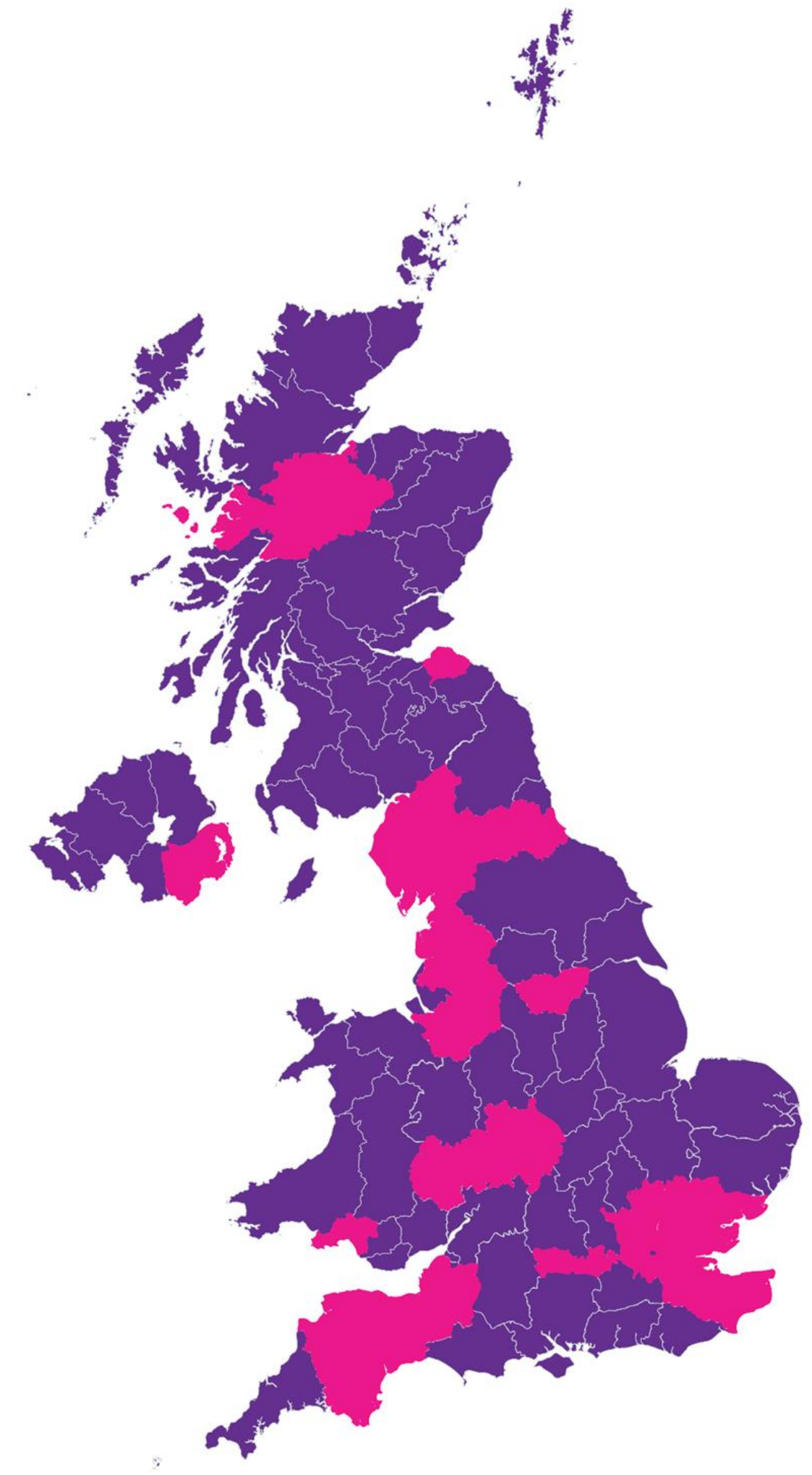
“I would like to do anything I can to aid others in my position to have a better quality of life, access to treatment, even if that comes too late to help me personally.”

“If I’m able to offer any insight of my own experience in these areas to give something back then that is a huge privilege.”

“I am passionate about improving the outcomes and experiences of patients with this disease. Not just for myself but for anyone else in the future.”

“To ensure I still have purpose and meaning in my life since having to give up due to secondary breast cancer. And to help find better treatments and cures for others.”

“Being part of this process makes me feel empowered and that I have a voice.”



# Assessing patient benefit in grant applications

## *Letter of intent*

A letter of intent must include:

- Brief applicant details
- A project summary including key objectives
- **A description of how patient advocates have been involved in the project design**
- **The needs of the secondary breast cancer community that the project aims to address**
- **An outline and timeline of the near-time patient benefit that the project will deliver**

In-scope applications are invited to the next stage.

# Assessing patient benefit in grant applications

## *Application form*

Key questions on impact include:

- Describe how the proposed research complements the aims of **Make 2nds Count**
- Detail the individuals **including patient advocate(s)** who will be primarily involved in this work, including name, position, host institution and role in proposed research
- Describe the anticipated **impact and outputs** of the proposed research
- Outline plans for **patient and public involvement** in this work

All applications are externally peer reviewed.

# Assessing patient benefit in grant applications

## *External peer review*

- **Patient benefit and impact**

- Meets an unmet need
- Benefits to patients taking part
- Feasibility of outputs and impacts

- **Patient participation**

- Ethics
- Diversity
- Best practice in PPI

Highest scoring applications are put forward to the Research Committee



# Assessing patient benefit in grant applications

## *Research Committee*

The Research Committee judges the strength of proposals based on:

- Near-time benefits to the secondary breast cancer community
- Clinical importance of the research question
- Quality of study design
- Feasibility of project deliverables
- **Diversity of patient participation**
- Good value for charity funding
- Potential health economic benefits of the work

# Maximising impact

*Beyond research funding*

**We aim to amplify the impact of our research programme by:**

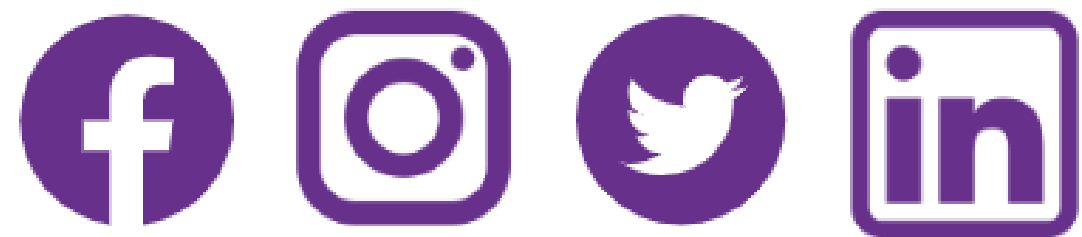
- Helping research teams find **patient advocates** to shape their work
- Supporting UK wide **recruitment** for research participants
- Being more **transparent** about our research with the patient community
- Supporting research teams to **share their findings** with the patient community, research community and wider public

**And most importantly, using the research findings to inform our charitable work**





**Make 2nds Count**  
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*Registered Charity Number: SC048268*

