



Faces and Voices of Recovery UK

UK Recovery Walk

Bidding Specification Document

First Published:
Revised:

10 March 2012
17 September 2025



WHO WE ARE

FAVOR UK is a UK-wide based charitable think tank and human rights advocacy service led by people with living and lived experience of alcohol and other drugs representing the voices of communities affected by addiction. We are a UK wide membership organisation with over 5,000 members. We are also a advocacy case worker service provider. We are led, developed, managed and sustained by lived experience professionals

WHAT WE DO

ADVOCATE

We provide the knowledge and tools required to ensure people are aware of their own rights and have the confidence to voice them.

CAMPAIGN

We challenge public policy in order to remove obstacles and promote equitable access to treatment systems and options.

CHALLENGE STIGMA

We call out stigma and promote equality for people with living and lived experience of alcohol and other drugs.

OUR AIMS

1

To save and improve the lives of people affected by alcohol and other drugs by providing a voice of conscience.

2

To encourage and promote a more balanced investment into treatment services by public bodies and other funders.

3

Increase society's understanding of the links between trauma and the use of alcohol and other drugs, promoting the values of patience and empathy.

4

To influence and shape public policy, removing the tokenism around the way that the voices of living and lived experiences are heard.

5

To celebrate and promote a culture of hope through the UK Recovery Walk, and inviting communities to walk with us through towns and cities across the UK.



Photo: Hull 2023

1. Introduction

The UK Recovery Walk and Conference has become an annual event that combines the celebration of recovery with advocacy activities. Each year, a new city or town takes on the responsibility for hosting the walk. The walk has historically consisted of a celebratory public parade in the host town or city followed by a celebratory gathering in a Recovery Village.

2. Background

Since 2009, the UK Recovery Walk has grown in popularity, size and scope. Due to the high number of people looking to host the walk in 2012, a bidding process was introduced. For this reason, all interested parties are required to submit a bid to the trustees of Faces and Voices of Recovery UK signifying their interest. All approved bids are then put to a public vote with the bid receiving the greatest number of votes being declared the winner and host town / city.

The premise of the walk is that the host town / city undertakes the planning and development of their own walk, with support given by Faces and Voices of Recovery UK. The actual walk specifics such as the route taken, length of route, and time of day have been decided by the host.

Traditionally, there has been an Annual UK Recovery Walk Conference the day before the walk which debates and highlights current topics and trends in the recovery world.



Photo: Manchester 2014

3. The UK Recovery Walk

The UK Recovery Walk traditionally takes place during September which is also International Recovery Month. The walk is traditionally held on a Saturday in the middle of the month. The walk itself is to be no more than 2 miles long with an opportunity for less able participants to be able to complete it easily (please try and avoid steps or steep climbs). For those who are unable to complete the entire walk, a turnaround point around one third of the way through the total distance is advisable.

The UK Recovery Walk route should ideally partly take place through pedestrian areas that are densely populated, to ensure maximum exposure.

Ideally the walk will start and end in the same location where the Recovery Village will be situated (please see Recovery Village Section below).



Photo: Blackpool 2017

4. The UK Recovery Conference

On the Friday preceding the UK Recovery Walk, the annual UK recovery Conference is held. The aim of the conference is to highlight and debate a current or topical theme that is affecting the sector, with a number of guest speakers and people with lived experience sharing their stories and views.

Typically, the UK Recovery Conference attracts around 100 delegates so a venue that can comfortably accommodate this. Sufficient breakout spaces for lunch etc would be required.

Faces and Voices of Recovery UK will assist in the preparation of the conference itself including the sourcing of keynote speakers, but the winning bidder will be expected to source a suitable location and appropriate PA equipment to include a projector and screen and sound equipment.



Photo: Brighton 2012

5. The Recovery Village

At the start / end of the UK Recovery Walk, there should be a Recovery Village which will allow people to come together to celebrate recovery. If you are successful in your bid for the UK Recovery Walk and Conference, you will be required to provide the following:

MANDATORY

- Stalls promoting appropriate / relevant local services in the area.
- An appropriate space for various mutual aid meetings to take place.
- A selection of food and drink vendors
- A Stage and appropriate PA system for various acts / entertainers to perform.
- Big Screen to show the stage performances as well as promote the various sponsors / supporters of the UK Recovery Walk

SUGGESTED

- Children's Entertainment
- Face Painting
- Ice Cream Van



Photo: Durham 2015

6. Guidance for bidders for the UK Recovery Walk

The following are the major stages for planning of the UK Recovery Walk and are suggested guidelines for interested parties to consider when bidding to host the event.

Before the first UK Recovery Walk Host Committee Planning Meeting:

- Form a UK Recovery Walk Host Committee and set its working guidelines (including place and time for UK Recovery Walk Host Committee planning meetings, minutes and agenda procedures, decision making process, tasks and responsibilities for committee members and for sub-committees, etc.)
- Inform the members of UK Recovery Walk Host Committee that all official receipts and invoices are to be given to the committee's treasurer before being reimbursed for any expenses being claimed back by committee members, such as travel expenses or any agreed items purchased to do with the event.
- Any rental / hire agreements for the event must be approved in writing by a Faces and Voices of Recovery UK charity trustee to meet with the requirements of the charity's accounting procedure.
- All funds raised by the UK Recovery Walk Host Committee will be accounted for in the UK Recovery Walk charity accounts i.e. all sponsorship, donations etc.
- It is up to the UK Recovery Walk Host Committee to decide when and under which conditions third parties will be authorised to sell their products at the UK Recovery Walk Conference and UK Recovery Walk.
- Prepare a proposal for any party and/or any other entertainment events and respective admission fees.
- Prepare an overall budget that includes any initial funds (seed money) provided by FAVOR UK.



7. Communication

The UK Recovery Walk Host Committee shall agree to:

- Have accountability to Faces and Voices of Recovery UK, who bear ultimate responsibility for the UK Recovery Walk
- This event serves a multi-lingual/multi-cultural community that goes beyond the boundaries of UK
- Allow charity trustees to attend and have input into general planning meetings.
- Communicate monthly through a written report to Faces and Voices of Recovery UK on the planning and on-going costs of the event.
- Deliver a final written report, post event, to Faces and Voices of Recovery UK.
- Allow Faces and Voices of Recovery UK trustees to have input, in conjunction with the host committee, which speakers and or workshops are to be scheduled at the UK Recovery Walk Conference.



Photo: Middlesbrough 2019

8. Advertising and Branding Guidelines

The UK Recovery Walk Host Committee shall agree to:

- Ensure the UK Recovery Walk is branded / advertised as the “FAVOR UK Recovery Walk [insert year] in association with [insert town council / city council / service provider as appropriate]”
- That the FAVOR UK Logo is prominently displayed on all marketing / advertising material.
- Once an expression of interest is received, we will supply further information around branding including colour palettes, suggested logo ideas etc.

9. Inclusivity

The UK Recovery Walk is a celebration of recovery, no matter which pathway people have taken to achieve it. If you are a group or service provider who is interested in bidding to host the UK Recovery Walk, we ask you to make sure you include other services and the local recovery community in your area to participate.



Photo: Newcastle 2022

10. Nominating your town or city

Should you wish to nominate your town / city as the host of the UK Recovery Walk, you must first submit an expression of interest. Your expression of interest must include:

- Which service you represent, and the town / city in which you are located,
- The proposed date of the walk,
- The proposed location of the Recovery Village,
- Confirmation that you have had preliminary discussions with your local council who support the event, and;
- A letter from the local council to confirm they support your bid to host the UK Recovery Walk

Upon receiving your letter of interest, we will contact you to either:

- Approve your expression of interest and invite you to submit a formal bid, or
- Request Further Information

If we invite you to submit a formal bid, there will be a deadline for submission.

Once all bids are received and approved, they will be put to a public vote on our own Social Media Channels with the winner being decided by the greater number of votes received by a set deadline.



Photo: Cardiff 2012

11. If you don't win the vote

In the event that you do not receive enough votes to be the host city, we will ask you if you would consider being the host city for the following year. If you are willing to be considered for the following year, we will not ask you to submit a fresh bid, but simply confirm any changes to the existing bid and provide an updated letter of support from your local council. We may still require you to be part of a voting process.

12. The next steps

If you wish to submit an expression of interest to host the next UK Recovery Walk in your town or city, or require any further information please email annemarie@facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org

Statement on Sponsorship Contributions

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK (FAVOR UK) will retain 20% of all funds raised through sponsorship towards the organisation and delivery of the UK Recovery Walk.

This is not a profit-making exercise. The 20% allocation is essential to:

- Cover the core administrative and operational costs of running a national event of this scale
- Ensure proper insurance, compliance, governance and financial oversight
- Provide continuity and capacity so that the UK Recovery Walk can be delivered safely and professionally every year
- Invest in the future sustainability of the Walk, rather than relying on one-off fundraising efforts that leave us starting from zero each year

In addition, we must insist that all money raised in the name of the UK Recovery Walk or the events listed in the bid document is processed through the FAVOR UK bank account. This is vital for transparency, proper accounting, and to ensure that sponsors, partners and supporters can have full confidence in how funds are managed.

The UK Recovery Walk is the largest celebration of recovery in Europe. Keeping a modest portion of funds and maintaining strict financial oversight ensures that this movement can continue to grow, remain independent, and secure its place on the national calendar for years to come.



Faces and Voices of Recovery UK is a charity registered with OSCR
with the number SC043961