

Job Description

JOB TITLE: 1:1 Befriender for Carers

JOB LOCATION: Taunton Area – 6 month Pilot Project

RESPONSIBLE TO: Volunteer Coordinator

Objective

To spend time with carers, providing friendship and encouragement to them on a one to one basis.

Scope of Role

- Befriending is providing friendship and encouragement to the carer. A befriending scheme initiates supports and monitors a relationship between a Befriender and a carefully matched Carer.
- The aim is to offer companionship and support, not a care service for the person the carer looks after.
- Depending on the needs of the carer, visits could be used for visiting the carer at their home or for meeting up outside of the home, e.g. going for a walk or visiting a café etc.
- The service will be time limited and carers will be able to access up to six befriending sessions each, which can be taken once a week for six weeks or can be spread out, e.g. once a month for six months. Each session will take place for up to two hours. The duration and frequency will be agreed with both the volunteer and carer at the beginning and recorded by the Volunteer Coordinator.

Main Duties

- To visit the carer in his/her own home or outside the home at an agreed venue at times agreed with the Carer.
- To build a relationship with the Carer.
- To provide the Carer with friendship, support and a listening ear.
- To treat the Carer with respect and dignity having concern for his/her individuality and choice.
- To work to an agreed timetable with the Carer.
- To observe health and safety standards for the benefit of self and the Carer.
- To maintain confidentiality at all times.
- To look clean, tidy and presentable, in keeping with the role.

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- To perform all duties of the role to the best of his/her ability, with full regard to the Volunteer Policy.
- To comply with the reasonable directions of the Volunteer Coordinator, on behalf of Compass Carers.
- To highlight training needs appertaining to the Role
- To attend meetings and training as required by the Befriender Scheme.
- To report any sickness holidays and other absences.
- To record hours and miles travelled on a volunteer expenses form signed by the Carer and submitted regularly in accordance with the Expenses Policy.
- At the end of each befriending session the volunteer befriender will complete a record of the session and any further action required. This will then be passed onto the Volunteer Coordinator to be updated onto Charity Log.

Person Specification

- To demonstrate enthusiasm and sensitivity for communicating with people who are carers for people who are unwell/disabled.
- To show an understanding of the carer role with its' difficulties and strains.
- To help the Carer feel relaxed and secure.
- To establish and maintain appropriate boundaries within the befriending relationship.
- To have the ability to work alone, unsupervised, using his/her own initiative.
- To be reasonably flexible in the hours of volunteering, to meet the needs of the Carer.
- To be able to travel to and from the Carer's home (within an accessible distance).
- To be contactable by telephone.
- To understand the need to contact the Volunteer Coordinator if any problems arise.
- To be able to maintain confidentiality.
- To be able to demonstrate reliability, consistency, responsibility and honesty.
- To be non-judgmental.
- To undertake an induction and participate in training as required by the role.
- To be committed to the project for at least 6 months.
- To have an understanding of and commitment to Equal Opportunities.
- To undertake an enhanced DBS Check before commencing the role.

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Terms of Engagement

Voluntary position

Working Hours

Negotiable

Remuneration

In order to help develop a sustainable project model, expenses for this project will differ to those of other projects and will comprise of a flat rate reimbursement to the volunteer of £10.00 for every session undertaken. (£5.00 to cover travel including carpark if used and £5.00 for the activity undertaken, e.g. coffee if going to a café).

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