



bringing people together...

Volunteer Befriender Role Description

The Befriending Scheme supports vulnerable people by running a one-to-one befriending service. We are looking for volunteers willing to befriend a vulnerable person, assist them to access their local community and if needed be willing to offer support and guidance.

What does this role involve?

A volunteer befriender should:

- Be a fully registered volunteer for The Befriending Scheme, undergo a DBS check
- Be understanding and respectful to the person they are befriending
- Adhere to TBS Confidentiality and Health and Safety policies
- Advise the Link Co-ordinator and their linked friend if they are unable to keep an appointment with them due to illness or other commitments
- Use appropriate terminology and language when talking to their linked friend
- Ensure meetings and events attended are appropriate and the choice of both parties
- Exercise patience and allow sufficient time for clients with speech and language difficulties to verbally express themselves
- Value their friends' knowledge, experiences and opinions
- Report any concerns to the Link Co-ordinator regarding clients/volunteers/other matters asap
- Attend training events if and when able
- Ensure attendance at meetings to monitor the linked friendship
- Ensure the claiming of expenses with receipts is carried out on a regular monthly basis
- If using their car, the volunteer should ensure it is adequately insured

A volunteer befriender will not be asked to meet any personal care needs

What attributes/skills do I need?

- Friendly and approachable
- Flexible
- Good communication skills
- Reliable
- Be committed to the role for at least 6 months

How much time do I need to commit?

2 – 3 hours, once or twice a month

What support will I be given?

- A member of staff will be available to give you continuous on-going support, advice and guidance

What benefits can I expect?

- Widened circle of friends
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping a vulnerable person in your community
- Valuable experience of volunteering that you can add to your CV
- You can claim previously agreed out of pocket travel expenses
- You will have the opportunity to access our volunteer training programme to develop vital skills in working with adults with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems.

For more information and to apply for this role please contact:
01787 371333 or info@thebefriendingscheme.org.uk

www.thebefriendingscheme.org.uk