

**ESCAP**

**(Environmental Sensory Communication Age UK Project)**

**Communication Champion**

**Volunteers**

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**Overview**

ESCAP offers free auditing, advice, training and support to care homes and their residents about how best to support residents of care homes with a sensory impairment. A sensory impairment is when one of your senses; sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste or spatial awareness, is not working properly. It is currently a pilot project working with a select number of care homes and their residents with sensory impairments.

ESCAP works collaboratively with other organisations in Yorkshire involved in supporting people with sensory impairments. The advice, training and support available from ESCAP is wide ranging and may include specific communication strategy training for care home staff, i.e Intensive Interaction or Makaton, creating personalised resident plans, adjusting the environment, signposting residents with sensory impairments to services and establishing activities to improve the experiences of residents with sensory impairments.

**Can you help?**

* Do you want to make a difference?
* Do you have an enthusiastic, kind and helpful manner?
* Do you have experience working with people with sensory impairments?
* Do you have a growth mind set?
* Can you use or learn to use our computer database?
* Can you commit to at least 6 months of volunteering?



**Tasks**

We are looking for volunteers who can:

* Attend relevant training
* Support residents with sensory impairments in their day to day activities, including by the use of technology
* Work effectively with care home staff to ensure that the best support is available for residents with sensory impairments in care homes
* Contribute to care home and resident ESCAP plans
* Lead activities/workshops
* Become Communication Champions
* Liaise with other sensory impairment agencies in Yorkshire
* Maintain records using a computer system
* Safe guard care home residents with sensory impairments





**Volunteer Commitment**

All Age UK Leeds volunteers are offered a full induction. Volunteers also have access to training, informal supervision, briefings and opportunities to participate in social events. Age UK Leeds will provide specific training on Safeguarding, Professional Boundaries and anything relevant to the role.

All agreed out of pocket expenses such as travel costs will be met by Age UK Leeds.

**We offer:**

* support and training
* work experience
* opportunity to develop new skills and interests
* chance to meet new people
* an opportunity to contribute to and be part of an established organisation specialising in the knowledge and understanding of the older people of Leeds

**We would request volunteers try to commit to 6 months because of the level of support and training we will offer you to carry out this role.** A full DBS will be completed, which we will organise, and references received before commencement.



**How to apply**

**To find out more about volunteering as an ESCAP Communication Champion Volunteer** please contact Jo Joy-Jones on 0113 2031112 ext. 234 or email jo.joy-jones@ageukleeds.org.uk.

**If you wish to apply to be a volunteer** please visit the volunteering section of our Age UK Leeds website or email volunteering@ageukleeds.org.uk