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**Job Pack**

**Information & Advice
Welfare Benefits Advisor**

January 2022

Dear Applicant

**Information & Advice Welfare Benefits Advisor**

Thank you for your enquiry in response to our advertisement for the above position. I have pleasure in enclosing the following:

* Background to the post
* Job description and Person Specification
* Background information about Age UK Bromley & Greenwich
* Application form
* Diversity monitoring form

Candidates shortlisted for an interview will be contacted by email and or telephone so please include an email address and mobile telephone number or any other telephone number where you can be reached. Please note that we do not accept CV’s.

We only contact applicants who are shortlisted for an interview. Therefore, if you have not heard from us by Friday 11th February you should presume that on this occasion your application has not been successful.

I look forward to receiving your completed application form no later than midday on 7th February 2022. The Interview will take place week of 14th February 2022.

Thank you for your interest in this role.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ellison

Mark Ellison
**Chief Executive**

**BACKGROUND TO THE POST**

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich has been commissioned by London Borough of Bromley and Royal Borough of Greenwich to provide Information, advice and guidance to older people in both boroughs. Welfare benefits advice is an intrinsic part of the work we undertake.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a refreshingly new approach to supporting people who may have needs as a result of having long-term health conditions, age related frailty, learning disabilities, mental health and physical disabilities. This would also include support for carers including younger carers and assisting adults who may be experiencing barriers to employment and training. This innovative project delivers new choices for local people to help them maintain their health and wellbeing as well as their independence.

**Job Description**

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| **Job Title:** | Information & Advice Welfare Benefits Advisor |
| **Reporting to:** | Information & Advice Manager |
| **Responsible for:** | Not applicable |

**Job Outline**

To provide Specialist welfare benefits Information & Advice to older people. The service is primarily office-based, but may also include outreach or home visits; to provide support to the volunteer I&A Advisors; to provide cover for the I&A Manager and support the I&A Manager in keeping our information resources up to date.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

* To provide a holistic assessment and help co-produce a person centric support plan
* To provide information and advice to older people, their careers, relatives and friends. This advice may be in person, in writing, by email or telephone. There may also be occasional home visits
* To have an in depth knowledge of Welfare benefits which apply to older people.
* To be responsible for the provision of up-to-date benefit information and undertaking of benefits checks supporting older people in benefits claims and appeals
* To have an in-depth knowledge of those issues likely to affect older people, for example but not limited to Lasting Power of Attorney, succession, care provision and housing as well as paying for care
* To respond promptly, proactively and effectively to a wide range of enquiries from the public
* To support access to a wide range of services that are appropriate, paying particular attention to the needs of marginalised groups and promoting opportunities for early intervention, prevention and re‑ablement
* To undertake practical help and casework, for example helping an older person fill in forms, sorting out their financial situation, assisting with a wide range of complaints and following up these, helping sort out paperwork
* To be responsible for the recording, collation and monitoring of all relevant information relating to clients accessing our services and the milestones, outcomes and outputs of the service
* To be responsible for inputting client records onto the organisations case management system and running reports
* To arrange and participate in stakeholder and other events throughout the Borough
* To work closely with other members of the team and partner agencies in respect to correspondence, telephone conversations and enquiries
* In the absence of the I&A Manager to provide support to the Volunteer I&A Advisors, ensuring they are briefed and updated before each of their sessions begins and that there is always someone present to take enquiries, answer the phone etc
* To provide outreach information & advice at venues across the Borough as and when required
* To provide high quality information, ensuring that our policies and procedures are fully complied with, and that we meet the standards required by the Age UK Quality Advice Standard and other external accreditations
* To liaise with and refer clients to the external organisations and services, including the Pension Service and Tax Help for Older People advice sessions
* To undertake accurate case recording according to our policies and procedures
* To support the I&A Manager with the statistics and reports required across both the Boroughs
* To keep up to date with relevant laws, policies and procedures – locally and nationally and participate in training (internal and external)
* To promote the services provided by Age UK Bromley & Greenwich, including our charged-for services, to customers and professionals. This will include attending outreach events
* To uphold and protect the good reputation of the organisation

**General**

* To attend monthly supervision meetings with the Information & Advice Manager
* To participate in team and staff meetings as and when required
* To work within and fully comply with the policies and procedures of Age UK Bromley & Greenwich
* At all times to maintain the professional integrity and reputation of the Charity and represent their main interests in any dealings with other bodies, groups and individuals
* To undertake any other duties which may from time to time be required, and to participate in other events as requested by line manager
* To undertake any other duties commensurate with the purpose and remit of the post

All duties and responsibilities must be carried out in line with requirements of Data Protection Act, Equalities Act and with due regard to own and others’ health & safety.

This job description is intended as a summary of the main elements of the job described. They may be varied from time to time in consultation with the job holder without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

**Information and Advice Specialist Advisor
 PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Assessment will occur via application and interview**

**Note to candidates**

Any criteria marked (A) will be used for short listing purposes.

You should attempt to describe how you meet these criteria in the ‘General Experience and Further Information’ section of the application form, giving examples where possible. Only candidates who can clearly demonstrate how they meet these criteria will be offered an interview.

|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Experience** |  |  |
| Experience of working in an advice setting providing welfare benefit specialist advice  | **X** |  |
| Experience of providing advice to older people, their families and carers |  | **X** |
| Experience of working to an advice quality mark  | **X** |  |
| Experience of working with and supporting volunteers |  | **X** |
| Experience of handling a high volume of telephone calls in a customer-focused environment | **X** |  |
| **Skills, knowledge & abilities** |  |  |
| In depth knowledge of issues relating to older people | **X** |  |
| Excellent administrative skills, well organised with good time management and a methodical approach to work  | **X** |  |
| Ability to organise, prioritise and forward plan work and working under own initiative | **X** |  |
| Ability to provide accurate and appropriate advice in an understandable format | **X** |  |
| Ability to work accurately whilst under pressure | **X** |  |
| **Line Management and Team Working** |  |  |
| Self-motivated with the ability to work both independently and as part of a team | **X** |  |
| **Communication Skills** |  |  |
| Excellent oral and written communication skills and ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people | **X** |  |
| **Personal attributes** |  |  |
| Empathy and understanding of older people and the issues that impact their lives  | **X** |  |
| Commitment to the principles of Equality & Diversity and it’s practical implementation  | **X** |  |
| Reliable with good time keeping | **X** |  |
| **Information Management and Technology** |  |  |
| Ability to proficiently use Microsoft IT packages and customer relationship databases  | **X** |  |
| Excellent IT skills and experience using MS office software, databases and work processing applications  | **X** |  |
| **Travel** |  |  |
| Ability to travel across Bromley and Greenwich boroughs | **X** |  |
| Full UK driving license |  | **X** |

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

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| --- | --- |
| **Salary** | £25,000 - £28,000 per annum DOE |
| **Pension** | All eligible employees are automatically enrolled into our scheme with The Pensions Trust. Contributions are in line with the governments’ minimum standard (currently 5% employees and 3% employers). |
| **Hours** | 37.5 hours per weekNormal working week is Monday to Friday 9:00 until 17:30 with up to one hour unpaid lunch break.The nature of the role is such that some flexibility and additional hours may be required from time to time, including some evening or weekend work. Time off in Lieu will be granted for extra hours worked in the evenings or weekends. Overtime payments are not normally made. |
| **Annual leave** | 27 days per annum (2 days allocated over the Christmas Period). + 8 public holidays |
| **Based at** | The post holder will be primarily based at Community House, Bromley. The post holder will be required to travel and work at other locations throughout both boroughs.  |
| **Smoking** | Age UK Bromley & Greenwich has a smoke free policy that applies to all premises and vehicles in keeping with legislation |

**Disclosure and Barring Service Check**

This post is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975 and as such it will be necessary for a submission for Disclosure to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as CRB) to check for any previous criminal convictions.

**ABOUT AGE UK BROMLEY & GREENWICH**

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich is the trading name of Age Concern Bromley a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Age Concern Bromley was established in 1965 and Age Concern Greenwich merged with it on 30th November 2011.

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich has its main office in Bromley with two offices located in Greenwich. It is a partner of the national network of independent Age UK charities each is responsible for their own governance and own income generation. Age UK is the national charity and partner and all partners share common aims and values and work together for the benefit of all older people.

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich provides a wide variety of services to older people who are 50+ and resident in the London Boroughs of Bromley and Greenwich (direct service users are usually 60+). We provide practical help and advice to older people many of whom are frail or housebound, provide information on issues relating to older people their relatives and or carers such as money matters, housing, health and community care. Age UK Bromley & Greenwich campaigns locally on Age Discrimination and many other issues that impact the lives of older people.

**Vision:**

**To make Bromley and Greenwich places were all can enjoy later life**.

**Mission:**

**We will provide quality services for older people in both boroughs**

**We will work with older people to enable, support and connect.**

**We will promote independence and well-being.**

Some of the services we provide are commissioned by local authorities and NHS

Trust, others by charitable Trusts and we also have paid services for self funders, and people with personal budgets.

Our present and any future services will comply fully to our approach of how we work with and for older people:

* have a zero tolerance of all forms of abuse
* support people with the same respect and dignity you would want for yourself or a member of your family
* treat each person as an individual by offering personalised service
* enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control
* listen and support people to express their needs and wants
* respect people’s right to privacy
* ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution
* engage with family members and carers as care partners
* assist people to maintain confidence and a positive self-esteem
* act to alleviate peoples’ loneliness and isolation

**Age UK Bromley & Greenwich services include:**

* Advocacy and Representation – both boroughs
* Specialist Dementia Care / choir - Bromley
* Care Navigation – Bromley and Greenwich
* Community helpers befriending and support service – both boroughs
* Community Services:
	+ - Clip It - Toe Nail Cutting – both boroughs
		- Hospital Take Home and Settle – Bromley & Greenwich
* Dementia Support Hub – Bromley
* Men in Sheds – both boroughs
* Computer & art classes – both boroughs
* Information and Advice – both boroughs: a single telephone number for all information and advice enquiries from people resident in both boroughs, letter and to personal callers, casework and welfare benefit checks. Home visits are made to older people who are frail and unable to visit our office.

**For further information about Age UK Bromley & Greenwich visit our website:
www. ageukbromleyandgreenwich.org.uk**