

Community Connector

Connecting Older People to their community

Camden's Community Connectors work with people who are 60+ to connect with social opportunities in a way that suits them. Providing support and encouragement for individuals to try new activities or reengage with interests, building their confidence and enabling independence.

The service works with individuals who may have fewer social connections than they would like or who may be facing barriers to being able to engage with activities. This could include having experienced a significant life changing event, for example the isolation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Volunteers help the Community Connector staff to support clients achieve their goals. Volunteers provide the short-term intervention and support, to help with building confidence and will support a number of clients during their time as a volunteer.

***Currently attending activities with clients is on hold and will be reviewed as the government guidelines are updated. We are currently offering socially distanced walks - supporting people to build confidence to be out in the community again and encouraging physical activity.**

In this role you may:

- Meet with an older person outside and accompany them on regular socially distanced walks for up to 3 months
- Build rapport quickly and help them to identify what they'd like to do in the future, positively encouraging social connections
- Go with individuals to activities for the first time to help them settle in and encourage individuals to join in with other participants.
- Provide remote support to encourage individuals to engage with social connections in alternative formats e.g. online activities

You will always:

- Commit to the arrangements you make and be there for the hours you agree.
- Remain focused on building confidence and looking towards a time when your support will end.

We are looking for people who:

- Can relate to older people and their lives
- Enjoy conversation and getting to know people
- Can gently encourage and help foster self-confidence
- Are supportive and sensitive
- Understand that it is best for people to make their own choices and decisions
- Understand that the best outcome is for older people to feel confident to engage in activities without support
- Are willing to volunteer within our policies designed to keep older people safe
- Will respect the boundaries of the role

Volunteering Hours

Most of the activities and outings happen during the day, Monday – Friday, though there may be some evening and weekend options.

Be as flexible as possible as activities take place at different times on different days and in different locations.

- 2 – 4 hours week.

Training and Induction for the role is provided and includes: (this is mandatory)

- Age UK Camden organizational induction

We will give you:

- Ongoing support including regular supervision by the manager of the service or other Community Connector Staff.
- Reimbursement of agreed expenses
- Access to Volunteer Forum events

If you are interested, we will ask you to:

- Complete an application form
- Meet with the Community Connectors manager
- Provide details of two Referees
- Complete an Enhanced DBS check (we arrange this with you)
- Induction and training (as laid out above)

We understand that completing the various steps takes time and we support and keep in touch with you through the process.

As this role brings our volunteers into regular contact with vulnerable older people, we make sure that all volunteers understand their role and have completed our recruitment procedures to both our and their satisfaction.

Thank you

You can find out more about the Community Connectors service and Age UK Camden here:

www.ageukcamden.org.uk