

Circles Volunteer Community Connector

Are you known for being sociable and friendly? Do you like to get out and about in the community?

Our Circles Community Connector Volunteers aim to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst older people aged 50+ in Doncaster. Everyone is different and there are many reasons why someone might be feeling lonely or socially isolated, but with your help we can support people to plan a personalised route forward and empower them to move from 'couch to out and about'; to form new friendships or social networks, and to maintain independence, build resilience and improve their health and wellbeing.

What will your role be?

Confidence building, encouraging and motivating! You will be supporting someone to help them plan what they'd like to do to move toward more fulfilling days. You might, for example, help to research an art club to join, accompany someone to a group if they are worried to go on their own at first; travel on the bus there together; or support them in developing a new friendship group. Some people might only need short term support and others might need a bit longer but we encourage independence and always have a goal in mind.

Our Community Connector Volunteers will also help to run our local hubs – we are setting our first hub up in the town centre followed by other hubs in suburbs around town. We would like our volunteers to host these hubs and be there to welcome people. The hubs will be a great place to have a cuppa and a chat and hopefully find a like-minded person (or two) to try out an activity with! If you are supporting someone 1 to 1 they are also a great place to go for people who are nervous to get out.

Part of the role will also be to help to research what's happening in each hub area and come up with ideas for activities, visits and clubs people could try!

The role is quite flexible but you will need to have c.2 hours a week that you can offer, this will usually be in the daytime but with possible occasional evenings. We can work with you though to find a way that volunteering with us works for you!

Is Circles right for you? You'll be aged 18+ and need to be:

- Seeking a role that is out and about in the community. Access to a car is very useful
- Outgoing, personable and friendly - someone who is sociable and is a good listener
- Trustworthy, reliable, and have patience with and empathy for others' situations
- Able to commit to meeting up with your match/group on a regular basis
- Willing to undergo our initial compulsory and on-going recommended training, follow our guidance and work within the role boundaries and Age UK Doncaster policies
- Be willing to commit for a period of around a year (whilst we know circumstances may change we would like you to head into this thinking of it as a longer term commitment).

How to join us?

Please complete our volunteer application form and email it to Volunteering Officer, Helen, at volunteering@ageukdoncaster.org.uk. You can also email her on that address if you would like to chat about the role. Alternatively you can call us on 01302 812345. We'd love to answer any questions you might have.

We will then invite you for an informal interview, follow up your references and ask you to attend our compulsory training, which may be face to face or remote depending on circumstances. Please be aware that this role requires an Enhanced DBS criminal records check. We will reimburse you for any agreed out of pocket expenses whilst undertaking this role.

The initial sign-up paperwork/training and orientation will take up around 8 hours of your initial volunteer time with us (but we spread it out so it is doable with other commitments!) but when you're done you will be informed, enthused and hopefully raring to go helping people transform their lives!

We look forward to hearing from you!