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**HEATHFIELD OLDER PERSONS COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

**PURPOSE**

To grow and coordinate a small group of local volunteers in and around Heathfield. Your group will help support local older people who have been isolated or shielding and help them re-integrate back into the community as we all come out of the pandemic together. We will support you with training and advice, but you and your team can decide on what support your local community needs. This could include telephone and face to face befriending, help with shopping, escorted walks, small activities and providing general friendship.

**ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER**

* To recruit and coordinate a small team of local volunteer befrienders.
* To work with Age UK East Sussex to identify local people who would benefit from your support.
* To establish opportunities for older people to re-integrate back into your community such as; befriending, shopping, escorted walking, coffee and tea mornings etc
* To communicate activities across the local area and encourage participation.
* To liaise with the Age UK East Sussex Community Response Team Coordinator

**SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES NEEDED**

* Well organised
* A people person
* Email and Telephone skills
* Good communication and interpersonal skills
* Trustworthy and reliable
* Wants to help the local community
* Can volunteer around ½ a day per week

**SCOPE**

* This is a locally based role, working from home, covering a small region.
* It is envisaged that the role would take approximately ½ a day per week
* The post holder would require their own car, IT equipment and mobile phone. Travel and telephone expenses incurred as part of the role will be reimbursed.

**AS A VOLUNTEER WE WOULD ASK YOU TO**

* Support the Mission and Vision of Age UK East Sussex by helping us to ensure that our county is a great place for older people.
* Attend all training and information days, group meetings and supervision as required.
* Adhere to Age UK East Sussex confidentiality and equal opportunities policies maintaining discretion and confidentiality at all times
* Complete a basic DBS check – we will pay for the cost of this

**AS A VOLUNTEER WE WILL OFFER YOU**

* An induction and ongoing training with support sessions if required
* Reimbursement of out of pocket travelling expenses
* Full recognition of the time, energy and skills volunteers freely give - for example long service and merit awards
* The opportunity to be part of a friendly team
* The opportunity to meet other volunteers and attend occasional social events
* The opportunity to be involved in the planning and development of Age UK East Sussex services
* Appropriate insurance cover - to protect you whilst you are acting on behalf of Age UK East Sussex
* The opportunity to enhance your skills.

**We place great value on our volunteers - who bring so much to the organisation. Their time, energy and commitment are recognised and greatly appreciated.**