

Community Researcher

General Description

Volunteer community researchers work with the Ambition for Ageing project team in the Alexandra, Failsworth West and Crompton wards of Oldham to help us to find out more about the local community and what could make the community more 'age friendly'. Volunteers will be part of a team and will get training, expenses and ongoing support. This is part of an exciting Big Lottery funded project.

What skills / attributes the volunteer will need

It is extremely important that volunteer community researchers are honest, reliable, friendly and approachable. You must be able to communicate well with members of the public. Computer skills would be useful for this role but are not a must.

A Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check will be required for this role but we will arrange this with you.

Tasks

The tasks will include some or all of the following:

- Carrying out home visits to talk to people who are isolated or housebound to tell them about Ambition for Ageing, talk about how 'age friendly' they feel their area is and ways of helping them to feel more socially connected.
- Asset mapping – this means finding out about the good points of a local community and helping us to record this information. This can be done in a variety of ways (using the Internet, over the phone or by going out and talking to people, using maps).
- Going out into the community to talk to people about Ambition for Ageing at:
 - Community events
 - Community groups
 - Key community venues, e.g. GP surgeries

- Mystery shopping – trying out local services to help us get a better picture of what is working well in the community.
- Promoting the Ambition for Ageing project.
- We are also looking for volunteers who are interested in representing the project by getting involved in the Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board and the Greater Manchester Older People's Network. We can give you more information about this if you are interested.

When and Where

This will take in one or more of the target wards – Crompton, Alexandra and Failsworth West.

We will agree hours to suit availability but have targets of the number of people that we need to talk to as part of the Ambition for Ageing programme.

Support

We will invite you to an induction session so you can learn more about Ambition for Ageing. There will be ongoing support from a named person / persons from Age UK Oldham or Action Together Oldham (*previously Voluntary Action Oldham*).

Expenses

Out of pocket expenses will be provided.

For more information please contact:

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