

Ambition for Ageing Project **Volunteer Role Description**



Drivers & Buddies

General Description

Drivers and buddies work with the Ambition for Ageing project team in the Alexandra, Failsworth West and Crompton wards of Oldham to support people aged 50+ to get out and about more in the local community. They help people who need assistance with transport getting to and from activities and sometimes need assistance to take part.

This could be a regular commitment like taking someone to and from a weekly chair-based exercise class at the same time every week or it could be picking people up for events every now and then.

It could involve assisting someone with dementia or a sensory loss to take part in an activity by sitting with them, explaining things to them if they need you to or prompting them if they have short-term memory loss.

It's up to you to decide how much time you can offer and which parts of the role you would like to do.

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 drivers and buddies are honest, reliable, friendly and approachable. You must be able to communicate well with members of the public. You will need access to your own vehicle and to be covered by your insurance for voluntary work.

A DBS check and a driving assessment will be required for this role (we will arrange this with you).

Tasks

The tasks will include some or all of the following:

- Picking people up from their homes and taking them to activities or events, on a regular basis or on an ad hoc basis.
- Assisting people into and out of transport.
- Taking people into the venue.
- Supporting people to take part in an activity:
 - moral support to help them feel more confident and introduce them to others
 - prompting people with memory loss or dementia to assist them to take part in an activity
 - support for people with sight and/or hearing loss to assist them to take part in an activity
- Chat to people and be a friendly face.
- Report any concerns about individuals to the Ambition for Ageing Project staff.
- Undertake training as required.
- 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.

Support

There will be an induction and ongoing support and training as appropriate. 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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