

Volunteer Visiting Befriender

Position Title: Volunteer Visiting Befriender

Reports to: Volunteer Coordinator

Location: Client's home

Commitment: 1-2 hours a week

Duration: Ongoing with a minimum 6 month commitment

Role Overview: The Forget-Me-Not Service (visiting befriending) is a volunteer-based scheme for older people who are isolated. In addition to providing companionship, it also acts as a welfare monitoring service. The Volunteer Visiting Befriender provides companionship, emotional support, and a friendly presence to individuals who may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation. By making regular visits to individuals in their homes, volunteers will help create a positive, supportive environment by offering conversation.

Key Responsibilities:

- Visit assigned individual on a regular, agreed-upon schedule to provide companionship and reduce feelings of isolation.
- Engage in friendly, non-judgmental conversations, ensuring the person feels heard and valued.
- Offer emotional support, encouragement, and a listening ear for individuals facing challenges such as loneliness and illness.
- Participate in or support activities the individual enjoys, such as reading, hobbies, or light physical activities within the home environment and as appropriate.
- Be attentive to any changes in the individual's mood or health and report concerns to the Volunteer Coordinator
- Provide a warm, respectful, and non-judgmental presence, making sure to maintain appropriate boundaries.
- Record relevant information about each visit in accordance with the organisation's protocols, including activities engaged in and any significant changes in the person's well-being or needs.
- Adhere to the organisation's safeguarding, health, and safety, and confidentiality policies.
- Provide feedback and attend occasional volunteer meetings or training to improve your role and experience.

Skills and Experience:

- Strong communication skills with the ability to engage in meaningful conversations and show empathy.
- Ability to build rapport with individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those who may have specific needs or challenges.
- Patience, understanding, and a caring nature.
- Experience or interest in working with vulnerable people, such as the elderly, those with disabilities, or individuals experiencing mental health difficulties.
- No formal experience required, but previous experience in community work, care, or support roles is a plus.
- Ability to maintain boundaries and respect confidentiality.

Key Qualities:

- Compassionate, empathetic, and a good listener.
- Reliable, punctual, and committed to regular visits.
- Friendly, approachable, and patient.
- Respectful of personal space and diverse life experiences.
- Flexible and adaptable to the individual needs of each person.

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Make a meaningful difference in the life of someone experiencing isolation or emotional challenges.
- Develop skills in communication, companionship, and supporting vulnerable individuals.
- Gain experience in community outreach, care, and support roles.
- Enhance your personal growth and sense of fulfilment through helping others.
- Ongoing training and support from the organisation.

Application Process: You will need to complete an application form and attend an informal interview. If you are successful, you will need to provide references, undergo a DBS check and attend an induction. There will be training provided.

If you are 18+ and you're passionate about making a difference and bringing joy to someone's day, we would love to hear from you!