

Volunteer Role Profile: Volunteer Community Connector

Role:	Volunteer Community Connector
Location:	Community Based
Supported by:	Community Connections Development Officer
Commitment:	Minimum of 1 hour per week

About Age UK Sutton

Age UK Sutton is an independent, local charity working throughout the London Borough of Sutton to support older people, their families and carers. Our vision is an Age Friendly Sutton, where older people know they belong, and feel supported and valued.

We offer a range of practical, social and information services and support for people aged 50+ that help them make the most of their later life. As well as providing services, we work to influence wider changes in the community to make Sutton a more age friendly place.

What do Volunteer Community Connectors do?

Volunteer Community Connectors help lonely older people in Sutton to meet new people, make new friends and connect with the wider community.

The service is provided **for up to 8 months** during which time Volunteer Community Connectors meet with clients regularly to get to know them and support them to develop the wider social connections they would like to have with others

Volunteer Community Connectors meet with clients once a week for **up to 8 months** to help the lonely and isolated older people develop their social connections.

The aim of the service is to facilitate independence and empower clients to gain a social and support network they can connect with, independently of the volunteer. Volunteer Community Connectors responsibilities include:

- Visiting or meeting clients regularly (usually weekly)
- Getting to know the client and learning about their life and interests
- Supporting the client to identify what and who is important to them and co-design a plan to improve their own social connections

- Being proactive in researching and exploring opportunities with clients
- Accompanying clients to groups and activities
- Completing and submitting an electronic feedback form after each session
- Participating in learning and development sessions as required
- Participating in support and supervision sessions as required
- Following Age UK Sutton policies and procedures.

Skills, Experience and Attributes Required

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Are compassionate, patient and caring
- Have a warm and friendly manner
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and active listening skills
- Have an understanding of the challenges faced by some older people
- Are open-minded and non-judgemental
- Are reliable and trustworthy
- Understand the importance of empowering clients and facilitating independence
- Have sufficient IT skills to complete online feedback forms, communicate via email and join online induction, training and support sessions
- Are willing to follow Age UK Sutton policies and procedures.

This role is open to volunteers who are a minimum of 18 years old and is subject to an Enhanced DBS (Criminal Record) check.

What We Offer

- Induction, training and support from the Community Connections Development Officer
- The opportunity to make a positive difference for older people in Sutton
- The opportunity to meet new people and be part of a great team
- The opportunity to develop new skills and experiences
- Reimbursement of reasonable travel and other out of pocket expenses.

To Apply

Please complete the on-line volunteer application form on our website
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sutton/get-involved/volunteer/application-form/>

For any questions please email the Volunteering Manager on
volunteering@ageuksutton.org.uk or call the office on 020 8078 0002