**Volunteer Role Description**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Sight Support West of England and Wiltshire Sight! We rely on the help and dedication of volunteers to support the wide range of services that we provide, and we recognise the huge contribution our volunteers make to the effectiveness of our organisation.

**Role:** Volunteer Befriender

**Location:** Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Glos.,

**Purpose:** Our befrienders provide crucial social interaction for our clients who are isolated and can’t reach our centres. By popping by once a week or fortnight, befrienders can make all the difference to their lives. A visit could be a chat and a cup of tea, helping out with odd jobs around the home, or getting out and about in the local area.

**What will you be doing?**

- Visiting people in their home to have a chat and provide company

- Supporting clients to carry out daily activities that they may otherwise struggle to complete (e.g. read mail, magazines, books etc. and assist with personal correspondence, help out with odd jobs around the home and garden)

- Encouraging and supporting clients to get involved in community activities

**What skills and experience are needed?**

* A reliable and conscientious attitude
* Friendly, helpful and understanding
* Effective listening skills
* Good verbal communication skills
* Flexible and committed
* Ability to maintain boundaries
* A good understanding of confidentiality

**What will you gain from the role?**

* The knowledge that you are helping to make a real difference to the lives of people living with sight loss
* Experience of working with a variety of people
* A greater understanding of sight loss
* Useful facilitation skills

**What support will be given?**

* Induction
* Understanding Sight Loss Training
* Expenses
* Supervision and support from the Volunteer Coordinator
* Additional training as appropriate

**When will you be needed?**

Times and dates vary depending on location.

**How often will you be needed?**

A minimum contribution of 2 hours per week would be ideal

A minimum of three months’ commitment is required

**References**

Two references required

**Disclosure and Barring Service Information**

This role requires a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check