



Engage With Age volunteer role description

Role title: HOPE group regular volunteer

Main purpose: to assist with group activities in the local HOPE hub

What is HOPE?

The HOPE project, which stands for Hubs for Older People's Engagement, was set up in April 2012. The aims of the project are to reduce social isolation amongst older people, encourage participation and promote a sense of involvement and well-being. The project involves a partnership between Engage With Age and local Housing Associations which provide facilities and activities for older people from within the housing scheme itself and from the local neighbourhood. Volunteers are critical to stimulate and engage older people during activities, as well as ensure the smooth running of the hub programme.

HOPE Regular Volunteer's role

As a HOPE group volunteer you will come along to the HOPE project activities in the local hub and assist in many ways. You would not be asked or expected to carry out all tasks, but these are a guideline to what you could be doing:

- Assisting with the serving of food and refreshments
- Organising activities as agreed by the Engage With Age Outreach Worker, group members and Scheme co-ordinator
- Leading an activity if you have a particular skill or hobby
- Providing one-to-one support/companionship to new members
- Ensuring all group participants feel comfortable and are able to take part if they wish to
- Joining in with activities if suitable for you
- If you are a car owner, picking up external group attendees and bringing to the meetings
- Support Engage With Age's HOPE outreach work in the local communities to find and motivate isolated people to become involved
- Accompany occasional bus outings throughout Northern Ireland
- Keeping accurate records of group activities and attendance, where applicable
- Informing appropriate colleagues and staff about how well things are going
- Learning about and following Engage With Age's health and safety standards at all times
- Being aware of and committed to Engage With Age's policies and procedures such as Health & Safety, Volunteer policy and so on.

Hub venues and frequency

- Various housing schemes and community venues throughout Greater Belfast
- Meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on the hub
- Programmes run throughout the year

You can volunteer in more than one hub if you have the time and they do not coincide with each other! We would ask that you commit at least three months to the HOPE project but would encourage you to stay as long as you are able and wish to!

As each hub is different, local variations will be discussed separately during the recruitment process.

Support

The Volunteer co-ordinator will provide ongoing support through regular telephone contact, supervision meetings and occasional social events for volunteers.

Qualifications and experience

No specific qualifications or volunteer experience is required. The role may be ideal for you if you have:

- A willingness to engage older people in activities – those living in the housing scheme as well as people from the wider community
- An open mind - to try new activities and work with different individuals
- Good listening and communication skills
- Ability to be patient and caring
- Punctuality and reliability
- An understanding and commitment to confidentiality
- A commitment to teamwork with other volunteers and staff from Engage with Age and the housing scheme.
- A commitment to attend training and development workshops
- A desire to help others and in turn have fun too!

How will Engage With Age support you?

You will be reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, in accordance with Engage With Age's Volunteer policy. You will receive appropriate induction and ongoing training for your role in the HOPE Project, as well as regular support from the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

ACCESS NI checks – Enhanced level checks to be carried out for this role.

We hope that you will find volunteering with Engage With Age a fulfilling, enjoyable and rewarding experience. Engage With Age values all volunteers and is committed to Equal Opportunities. We welcome and value your feedback on your experience as a volunteer with us at any time.