

Engage With Age Volunteer role description

Role title: HOPE support volunteer

Main purpose: to provide one-to-one support to individuals

What is HOPE?

The HOPE project, which stands for Hubs for Older People's Engagement, was set up in April 2012 and received funding from the Big Lottery. 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.

HOPE Support Volunteer's role

A HOPE Support Volunteer will be matched to an individual from point of referral to:

- provide support and companionship to a new referral
- visit this individual in their home
- accompany him/her to a hub and on outings for a limited time initially

Support visits

A support visit will ideally take place in the home of the referred individual initially until s/he is able to go out to a hub activity, or to join another group if preferred.

Support visits will take place ideally once a week for a short period at the same time if possible.

HOPE volunteer teams

As a HOPE support volunteer you will be working with either residents of the housing scheme or individuals in the local community, providing emotional support and companionship, as well as eventually accompanying them to a hub activity and on outings. You will work alongside the other HOPE outreach officer and other HOPE volunteers in a specific hub.

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!

We would ask that you commit at least 2 hours a week for a minimum period of three months to the HOPE project but would encourage you to stay as long as you are able and wish to!

Support

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

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 volunteering experience with us.