



Space Age Connections

CONNECTING . EMPOWERING



Connector Information Pack

Space & Broomhouse Hub
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1. Connector Role Profile

Objectives of the Role

We would like our volunteers to offer companionship, dependable support and friendship to help older people with dementia feel less isolated and lonely and to encourage them to become more involved in their local community.

Our Aim

We are looking for dedicated volunteers (Connectors) who can give between 1 & 2 hours a week to support older people (Buddies) with dementia who are at risk of social isolation.

This role gives you the opportunity to help people in a way that you are passionate about, visiting an older person in their home, to engage them in conversation and supporting them to be more socially active.

Description of Project

This unique wraparound service has been designed to complement our established day care service for people with dementia, The Beacon Club which has been operating for over 25 years, to be inclusive of people over 60, living in the South West of Edinburgh. With the help of our Connectors we want to offer companionship, reliable support and the opportunity to be more socially connected.

We are looking for people over 18 who can commit to being a Volunteer Connector for at least 6 months who we will then match up with an elderly person (Buddy) with hopefully some shared interest.



What's involved?

- Help older people feel less lonely by providing companionship and conversation in their homes on an agreed date/time;
- Where appropriate, refer and signpost an older person to other organisations and agencies that may support their health and well-being;
- Encourage older people to attend social groups e.g. coffee mornings or one-off events, if they feel they would like to;
- Any other reasonable activities aimed at enhancing an older person's quality of life; and
- Complete and return monthly visit sheets and feedback to the project coordinator.

You will not be required to provide personal care (e.g. feeding, washing) or give direct medical advice to participants.

What knowledge do I need?

As a Connector, we ask that you:

- Have good listening and communication skills;
- Have an interest in and empathy with older people;
- Can provide non-judgemental support and encouragement to people in difficult situations;
- Are able to respect confidentiality even in difficult situations; and
- Are honest, reliable, committed and flexible to meet your Buddy's needs.

What can I gain from this role?

We know that individuals volunteer for a number of different reasons and that the benefits will depend on personal circumstances however the following are recognised as some of the potential benefits:

- A greater awareness of services and activities in your local area;
- Training and support in areas such as active listening, understanding the barriers to social isolation and appropriate signposting;
- Opportunity to meet new people and use and develop your skills; and
- Improving your health and well-being.

Training

You will receive full training and support to help you to improve your confidence and understanding for this role. You will be required to complete mandatory training before you begin your role. This will cover areas such as dementia awareness, boundaries, confidentiality and safeguarding.

Support

You will be supported by a dedicated member of staff who will ensure that your training and development needs are met, and provide ongoing support as needed.

Expenses

We will refund you for any reasonable expenses, such as travel and activity costs.

Working practices

We ask that volunteers become familiar with Space & Broomhouse Hub's policies and procedures. Those relevant to your role will be shared with you during your training. The tasks and activities above listed are intended as a summary and may be varied from time to time in consultation with the volunteer concerned. The role description is intended to clarify the tasks and activities of the volunteer and is for the benefit of all concerned. It does not form the basis of a contract of employment.

Why Volunteer with us?

Volunteers are so important to us here at the Space & Broomhouse Hub and allow us to provide our services to many people in our local community who would not benefit otherwise.

We really value the contribution of our volunteers and are committed to making sure that your experience volunteering with us is a positive one!



**Thank you for considering volunteering with Space Age
Connections.**

**We can't wait to deliver this important new service with the help of
our brilliant volunteers!**

Important Contact Details

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Reception: 0131 455 7731

Connector Coordinators

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