

Side by Side Volunteer Role description

Together we are help and hope for everyone living with dementia



Side by Side Volunteer



Why we need you

As a Side by Side volunteer, you have a unique opportunity to play a part in enriching the life of someone with dementia in your local area. You will be carefully paired with a person with a dementia diagnosis and will enable them to stay connected with their community. You will build their confidence to remain active and engaged in the social and recreational activities they love. You will help to reduce their social isolation which so often accompanies a diagnosis of dementia and make a life changing difference.



What you will be doing

- Visiting someone with dementia for a minimum of an hour each week and participating in activities to help them keep doing the things they love – or pick up new ones. For example, walking the dog, going to a café for a coffee and chat, visiting a museum or local garden, or staying in to create a scrapbook.
- Updating the Side by Side Coordinator and/or lead volunteer after every visit to provide brief feedback on how you spent your visit and to highlight any concerns you may have.
- Visiting the same person every week to get to know each other well and create continuity.
- You will not be providing advice or guidance or any aspect of personal care in this role.



This role will suit you if you

- Are motivated to support, enable and empower people living with dementia.
- Are a good verbal communicator with great listening skills, especially face to face.
- Are happy volunteering on your own and keeping in touch with the Side by Side team.
- Are patient, flexible and able to commit to making weekly visits.



What you can expect from us

- We will make you feel welcome, included and respected.
- You will receive training, ongoing supervision and support.
- You can claim pre-agreed out of pocket expenses (e.g. travel) in line with our policy.
- We'll keep you up to date with relevant policies and procedures that apply to your role.
- You'll have access to learning, development and engagement opportunities for volunteers



What we need from you

To ensure the safety and security of people with dementia we ask for:

- Two references and proof of identity.
- You will need to complete a criminal record check, in line with the legal requirements. A Criminal Record will not necessarily stop you being able to carry out this role.
- To put the role into practice most effectively volunteers are recommended to continue for at least 6 months.
- Learning at the start will take about 2-3 hours, followed by periodic refreshers.