

Neighbours Connect Southmead

Volunteer Community Supporters

About Neighbours Connect Southmead

Neighbours Connect Southmead is a community led project to support Southmead residents who receive social care.

We think that a strong community is one that is connected to each other, where neighbours look out for each other and where people feel part of things; we want to be part of encouraging that. Through this project, we aim to reduce the risk from social isolation, loneliness and the potential impact on long-term health.

Who runs Neighbours Connect Southmead?

Neighbours Connect Southmead is a project run by Southmead Development Trust, who also run the Greenway Centre and Southmead Youth Centre. The Greenway Centre is a local hub, with a community gym, café, a snooker hall and is the venue for many different clubs and classes. Neighbours Connect Southmead is one of several other support services that Southmead Development Trust offers in the community.

What is the role of the Volunteer Community Supporter?

Volunteer Community Supporters will support Southmead residents to live more independent lives and be more connected to their community.

What kind of support will Volunteer Community Supporter be asked to do?

- Befriending – meeting with someone regularly for a cup of tea or taking part in an activity together ie. playing chess
- Support to attend appointments; hospital, GP dentist etc
- Support to go shopping, attend activities/local groups
- Support to take part in volunteering opportunities
- Driving someone to an appointment or activity that they would have trouble getting to alone
- Adhoc support for someone who just needs a little help
- Helping with groups

What skills and experience are we looking for in a Volunteer Community Supporter?

We value all kinds of experience that our Volunteer Community Supporters bring to the project. For some, this may be from paid or voluntary work. For others, they may bring their own life experience to the role. You don't need any specific experience to be a Volunteer Community Supporter, so long as you are good with people and you have an interest in connecting with and supporting others in your own community (see Role Description and Person Specification for more details).

How much time will a Volunteer Community Supporter need to give?

Volunteer Community Supporters can do as much or as little as they like! This may be 1 hour per week, a few hours per week, or it may suit you more to be available on an occasional ad hoc basis. It's entirely up to you.

We also understand that circumstances change and this might mean that you may need to reduce your availability for volunteering or stop completely. If this is the case, you just need to let us know.

How will we match you with a volunteer?

When you start with Neighbours Connect Southmead, we will work with you to gain an understanding of your interests, your experience and what you want to gain from the role. We will then match you with someone who fits. For example, you may be a chess enthusiastic and therefore matched with someone else who is a keen player!

If, at any point, either the volunteer or participant feels this match isn't working, it can be ended and we will find someone else who is more suitable.

What support will I get as a Volunteer Community Supporter?

You will receive regular and ongoing support from the Volunteer Coordinator at Southmead Development Trust. You will be fully inducted and trained at the start, with opportunities for ongoing training.

What can I gain from being a Volunteer Community Supporter?

Being a volunteer Community Supporter offers you the opportunity to connect with your community; you may enjoy supporting people who need a bit of extra help or it might just be that you want to be a good neighbour!

It may also open up future employment opportunities, by developing your skills and experience in a variety of areas, as well as being great for your own personal development. ie. building confidence.

We will always support you with the goals that you want to achieve from being a Volunteer Community Supporter and will help with any next steps when you decide to move on from the role. We will provide a written reference for volunteers who commit to a period of 6 months or more.

Find out more about becoming a volunteer with Neighbours Connect Southmead by getting in touch with us at:

Greenway Centre, Southmead Development Trust, Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol, BS10 5PY

Volunteer Coordinator - Letty Anderton

Email - lettyanderton@southmead.org, telephone - 07498 763 465