

Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role	Lunchtime Companion Volunteer
Volunteer Manager	Volunteering
Where you will be based	Community

Why we want you

As a Lunch Club Companion Volunteer your role will involve befriending patients with a range of health conditions including those with cognitive behavioural changes as a result of stroke/neuro brain injury. This may involve helping with various activities to help keep patients stimulated and engaged. A key part of this role will also be helping the staff on the ward so that they can run the Lunch Club sessions, giving patients more time to interact and enjoy some social time, allowing them to have an enjoyable dining experience. As part of the Lunch Club, you will be expected to assist with setting the tables, pouring drinks, and placing the food on the table for patients.

Please note, this role DOES NOT include feeding of patients unlike the Mealtime Companion volunteer role.

What you will be doing

- Report on arrival to the ward to confirm attendance, sign in and receive 'update'
- Liaise with a named member of staff to know which patients require help or support
- Help with Lunch Club activities, including setting tables, pouring drinks etc
- Sitting and chatting with patients, engaging in social activities, in particular, activities that enable patients to maintain good communication skills and encourage social interaction
- Helping patients with poor dexterity to cut up their food if necessary, and get the food on the cutlery so they can guide their hand to their mouth (role specific training will be provided)
- Enhance the quality of patient care by offering comfort, support, compassion, and friendliness
- Take part in activities before and after Lunch Club that involve reminiscing, such as discussing music, sport etc, watching TV, helping to browse on the iPad, or assisting patients to attend groups remotely e.g. singing group
- Update Handover Book on patient(s) seen that day writing a brief overview of activities used with each patient
- Create a social atmosphere, and act as a link between patients and staff

The skills you need

- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Be proactive and assertive to receive support
- A genuine interest in people as you will be required to sit and chat to patients during mealtimes
- A positive outlook and being non-judgemental is essential as you will be working with people who are unwell
- Understand and comply to confidentiality, being discreet and reliable

What's in it for you

- Meet new people
- Be part of an amazing team
- Gain new skills or use existing ones
- Help your community

Disclaimer

Following your successful application, you will be invited to an interview and you may be asked some questions in relation to our current Infection, Prevention & Control guidance - this may impact on which roles we can place you in. Most roles are subject to a DBS check and two satisfactory references being provided.