

Volunteer Role Description

Activities Support Volunteer – Dementia

Location: Senior Health wards primarily but not exclusively

Hours: 2 hours per week by mutual agreement. Your 2 hours per week will support a person with dementia whilst they remain a hospital inpatient. Shifts between 10:00 – 16:00 Monday to Friday.

Accountable to Voluntary Services Manager: Zoe Holmes

Responsible to: Dementia and Delirium Nurses and Ward Manager

Main Aims:

- You will enable a person with dementia to continue to feel engaged and involved in society and less isolated by their dementia.
- Hospital activity volunteers will provide agreed support to people living with dementia during their stay in hospital.
- Your involvement aims to help people feel less isolated, focus on their strengths, and remain active and confident
- Enabling people with dementia to continue with their hobbies and interests or engage in new ones on the ward as agreed during the assessment process.
- Creating / facilitating opportunities for participation in meaningful activities.
- Enabling a person with dementia to engage with activities in a safe and enjoyable environment

Key Duties:

- Make and engage in activities with stimulating memory boxes to encourage participation in a 1:1 setting or small groups.
- Theme memory boxes to engage using themes such as school days, holidays, hobbies and activities, work and entertainment.
- To take part in meaningful activities such as card games, dominoes, jigsaws, arts and crafts, or spend time chatting, listening to music or reading the newspaper.

Personal Specification

The role may be suitable if you:

- Want to help people with dementia stay active.
- Are passionate about supporting people with dementia to improve their quality of life.
- Know about, or are willing to learn about dementia and its impact on people.
- Have good verbal communication and listening skills, especially face to face.
- Recognise the importance of confidentiality, and show this in practice.

- Are prepared to undergo an induction into the role and attend necessary training and similar learning activities to help you in your role
- Are keen to provide a high standard of service
- Have satisfactory literacy skills
- Have the ability to volunteer within service boundaries
- Are comfortable to follow policies, procedures and guidance
- Punctual and reliable
- Are committed to inclusion, treating people from all backgrounds with dignity

General information

Volunteers should not undertake duties outside this role description without checking first with their Volunteer Supervisor.

Volunteers must not undertake any manual handling tasks or physical patient contact.

A volunteer can offer emotional support and empathy but must under no circumstances offer advice or a medical opinion on a patient's treatment or assist with anything of a clinical nature.

Volunteers are reminded of the importance of confidentiality at all times. They must under no circumstances discuss patients' affairs with any person other than the relevant staff.

Volunteers are in place to complement the work of the paid staff and are not used to replace roles that are usually undertaken by paid hospital employees.

Volunteers should receive regular support and supervision and training where applicable.

Volunteers are bound by the "Volunteer Agreement" which includes their rights and responsibilities, and Trust Policies also apply to volunteers.

All Volunteers will be expected to attend MAST Volunteer Induction and receive a local induction upon arrival of their first shift.