

Emergency Planning Volunteer Role Description



Background

Carers Link has been providing services to carers since 2004 and we have learnt a lot along the way about what carers want and need.

Why have an Emergency Plan?

Many carers worry about what would happen if they suddenly could not be there for the person they support and care for. This could be as the result of an accident, illness or some other unplanned event. The Emergency Planning process would encourage carers to think about what would happen in these circumstances and give them the opportunity to prepare a plan that could be put in place if required. The aim is to give carers peace of mind knowing that there are alternative arrangements documented in the event of an emergency. Volunteers will play a key role in this process and indeed the overall success of the project.

What will an Emergency Planning Volunteer have to do?

Volunteers will meet with carers face to face in either a Café, a carer's own home or at a mutually suitable venue. Together, carers and volunteers will explore and discuss the planning process, making it easier to complete the Emergency Plan (or a Future or Transitional Plan).

During the process, the Emergency Planning Volunteer will form a listening/trusting relationship with carers. The completion of an emergency plan is likely to take a few meetings/discussions.

Required Skills and Qualities

- Good communication skills - listening and written
- Reliable – able to make a regular commitment to the project
- Patient and willing to work at building up a relationship with carers
- Empathic towards carers and their situations
- Awareness of the need for confidentiality and discretion (though covered in training)
- Use of initiative
- People skills

Benefits to Volunteers

- They feel they make a difference to carers by building a relationship with them, allowing them to chat to someone who is interested in them as an individual.
- They have gained invaluable experience through providing support to carers.
- They have gained confidence.
- They have been able to develop their interpersonal skills.
- They often feel a huge sense of achievement.

Training & Support

Induction training can either be within a group setting for 6 hours or, if volunteers are unable to attend this, they will be able to complete a "train at home" pack. Support Buddy training will be provided in a group setting or 1:1 with the Volunteers Co-ordinator and Peer Support Co-Ordinator or Community Support Co-ordinator.

Potential volunteers are required to complete an application form and give details of two people willing to complete a reference questionnaire for them.

Reasonable out of pocket travel and light lunch expenses will be reimbursed.

Volunteers will receive 1:1 support twice per year and regular "on the job" support is provided also. There are also opportunities for volunteers to attend social events and support meetings to meet other volunteers.

Contact Details

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