

**Volunteer Role Description: Community Vision Volunteer**

**Mission Statement**

Sight Advice South Lakes aims to support people with visual impairment to improve the quality of their lives, together with promoting a greater awareness of sight issues.

This role contributes to three of the four core aims supporting the Mission Statement:

* To enable visually impaired people to live independently
* To provide practical and emotional support to visually impaired people, their families and carers
* To enable visually impaired people to access social support and activities

As possibly the only point of contact with Sight Advice South Lakes, in many cases, it is important that the Volunteer is aware of these aims and is an enthusiastic, caring and positive representative of the charity.

**Purpose of Role:**

To connect or re-connect visually impaired people to their communities through clubs, hobbies or interests in order to alleviate loneliness and isolation. Supporting people to make positive changes in their lives and realise their potential.

**Responsibilities:**

* Meet with your allocated client as agreed and appropriate to their identified goals/aims
* Support your client, helping them to improve the quality of their lives, engage with their local community and maintain their independence.
* Maintain confidentiality, anything discussed during a visit remains confidential unless by agreement of the client or a person is at risk in which case Sight Advice safeguarding procedures must be followed.
* To participate in regular monitoring and evaluation of the service.
* To maintain a record of travel expenses (if incurred) and claim them on a monthly basis.
* To keep a record of the date and time of your visits.
* This role requires a satisfactory DBS check which Sight Advice will arrange.

**The skills or interests required:**

* Excellent verbal and listening communication skills.
* Ability to bring people together, share ideas and make things happen
* Patience, understanding, empathy, reliability and cheerfulness.
* To work without direct supervision and yet understand you are part of a larger team.
* Understanding of and adherence to Sight Advice policies including Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding and Confidentiality.

**Usual Time Commitment:**

* Will vary depending on the client and on your own availability
* A flexible role that you can work around any other commitments

**Training:**

* Visual Awareness course
* Peer Support sessions

**Key Person for Liaison and Support:**

* Volunteer Support Officer and Development Officer

**The role enables you to:**

* Make a positive difference in the lives of the visually impaired in your community
* To meet likeminded people, fellow volunteers, Sight Advice staff
* Feel valued and enhance your personal development, skills and experience

**Additional Support**

* Feedback from service users and staff
* Regular monitoring of work undertaken
* Regular updates on other opportunities and training

**We welcome applications from people with lived experience of Sight Loss**