



## **Home Befriender Volunteer**

Sight Service is one of the premier support agencies for people with visual impairments in the Gateshead and South Tyneside areas.

We provide information, training and support for people of all ages, their carers, families, employers and providers of public services. Sight Service can offer reading aids and life skills training as well as assessments at home.

Although we have employed specialist staff we also depend upon volunteers to support us.

### **The Role**

Our one to one Home Befriending service, aims to reduce the isolation many blind and partially sighted people experience, helping to rebuild their confidence and regain their independence.

Volunteer Home Befrienders will be asked to commit 2-3 hours of their time each week to be partnered with a blind or partially sighted person. You will visit your partner in their home with the aim of building up a friendship.

### **Skills needed for this role**

- Volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Commitment of a minimum of 2 hours per week
- A sensitive attitude towards other people
- To be open minded and non judgemental
- A friendly and patient approach
- Enthusiastic with a positive attitude
- Good communication skills
- An awareness or experience of the issues affecting people with sight loss
- Reliable and trustworthy

## **Why volunteer with us?**

- Make a positive difference to the people that you contact
- Inspire others by reducing isolation and building confidence
- Provide a service that is both rewarding and satisfying
- Build your inter-personal skills
- Contribute to the work of Sight Service

## **What support will be given?**

- Training that includes Visual Impairment Awareness and supporting a Visually Impaired person in their own home.
- Each volunteer receives a Volunteer handbook and support from a dedicated member of staff and the Volunteer Coordinator including regular reviews to assess how your partnership is progressing
- Expenses paid (in line with company policy)

## **What do Sight Service require?**

- Initial Volunteer interview
- Completed Volunteer Application Form
- References request
- Criminal Record Check Information (DBS)

## **I am interested who do I contact?**

Kerry Pattison – Volunteer Coordinator  
Sight Service Gateshead, The Bradbury Centre, Bensham  
Hospital, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 4YL  
Telephone: 0191 4785959 (extension 204) or email  
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