Volunteer Role Description

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

Dementia Support

Why we need your help

At any one time in the hospital we can have lots of people with Dementia in our beds and many are without the support of family. Hospitals can be a frightening place for anyone but for those with Dementia can cause increased agitation, distress and anxiety. This new role will aim to help provide the patients with some much needed support during the long days in hospital to prevent boredom and isolation leading to increased anxiety.

What you will gain from this role

- You'll meet new people, and have the opportunity to help them in a positive way.
- You'll be able to keep fit and active and help as part of a team.
- You will be instrumental in helping patients with Dementia.
- You'll receive support and training from staff within the area.

What does a Dementia Volunteer do?

As a Dementia volunteer for you may be helping with some or all of the following;

- Visiting identified Dementia inpatients to provide company and support them to express their needs by actions such as assisting them to complete ' Getting to know you 'leaflets
- Supporting specifically identified patients with Dementia with activities such as doing jigsaws or looking at pictures and using the provided ward based activities.
- Replenishment of Dementia Activity boxes on wards and departments
- Other tasks that are identified through discussion with Dementia Lead Nurse within a volunteers remit.
- Buy a paper for the person or take someone outside in the wheel chair for fresh air

What we won't ask you to do

- You won't be providing clinical care to patients (ie. doing the tasks which the staff have been trained to do).
- You won't be asked to physically help patients or push them in wheelchairs without relevant training.
- We won't ask you to carry heavy loads.

- You won't be going into areas in the hospital that have Amber or Red Covid / other infection control restrictions in place.

What skills or experience do you need?

- Excellent communication skills – talking and listening to patients and staff – with a good standard of spoken English
- The ability to understand and comply with confidentiality requirements
- Have a professional and friendly demeanour.
- Be committed to the role and *attend regularly*. Be punctual and dependable.
- Within the boundaries of your role, be self-motivated and able to help without direct supervision
- The ability to know when and how to seek help – (guidance will be given).
- A reasonable level of fitness – you will need to be mobile during some of your 'shift'.

Location

Derriford Hospital

Days and times required

7 days a week, afternoons only.

Point of contact

- Dementia Lead Nurse or Matron Health Care of Elderly wards.
- Voluntary Services Team

Other requirements

- Applicants must be at least 18 to volunteer in this role.
- We are particularly keen to have input from individuals who have close connections with people living with Dementia.
- Health: you should be in a low/moderate health group. Those considered at an increased risk of severe illness or those caring for vulnerable adults should not apply to carry out this role. Acceptance to the role will be subject to a covid-age risk assessment.
- Training: undertake all relevant training for the role and comply with instructions
- Application requirements: A standard Disclosure & Barring Service check, formal volunteer registration.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding this role, please contact:

sarah.carlson@nhs.net or plh-tr.volunteerenquiry@nhs.net

Covid Rating

General Requirements/information;

- Volunteers must check in with their supervisor on arrival and check out when leaving. Their attendance is recorded for ‘track and trace’ purposes.
- Volunteers are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (ppe) if required
- A face mask must be worn while volunteering and on hospital premises
- Volunteers are advised to maintain an appropriate social distance from staff and patients
- Volunteers will not be asked to escort patients or visitors to ward areas
- Hand sanitiser is available and volunteers are instructed when to use this
- Wipes are available to use on surfaces such as tables and chair
- Any expenses that may be incurred should be by prior agreement.
- If work area/ computer access is required for role this will be agreed on an individual basis.