



## Volunteer Role Description

**Title:** Community Research Volunteer  
Leicester Ageing Together

**Responsible to:** Older Persons Coordinator

**Expected Commitment:** Attend regular monthly meetings, training & research as and when required

**Location:** Various locations in Leicester City

### About Us:

LAT is a project funded by the Big Lottery for 4 years, starting in 2015. We are working with 16 organisations to deliver activities aimed at reducing social isolation amongst older people.

The programme is focused in 5 city wards: Belgrave, Evington, Thurncourt, Spinney Hills and Wycliffe. These were selected because of the prevalence of risk factors associated with social isolation which have been identified by older people.

There is also citywide delivery to African Caribbean older people, older people with hearing loss, those who find it difficult to leave their homes and those returning home from hospital.

Throughout the programme, we will work with over 6,000 people, training and developing over 1,000 volunteers through a workforce development programme.

Evaluation of what works, and what doesn't, is a vital part of this project – a 'test and learn' approach. To this end we are collecting data on each and every person that accesses LAT activities – this is where Community Researchers are important.

We will use the information gathered to inform both local and national evaluations, with the goal of evaluating the LAT project and ultimately influencing the future commissioning of activities for older people in Leicester.

## About this role:

In the first instance your role will be to carry out evaluation of LAT activities, by using questionnaires with beneficiaries. This is following training in research, ethics and related issues delivered by Nottingham and Leicester Universities.

In time we anticipate the range of research activities may be wider, this is something that the Community Research team may initiate and develop. Future research tasks may range from advising on research questions to helping with community audits of neighbourhood resources

We'd like volunteers who can come to various locations, we will reimburse your travel expenses.

## Volunteer duties:

- Attend training in research methods and develop appropriate skills to competently carry out research & evaluation tasks
- Carry out evaluation by assisting LAT beneficiaries to complete questionnaires
- Contribute to discussions and development of the Community Research team
- To work within guidelines and to adhere to LAT policies and procedures, for example with regard to : data protection, confidentiality, health & safety, equal opportunities

## Qualities and skills we are looking for:

- Good communication skills, including some IT skills
- Life experience – we'd like our community researchers to be older people themselves – that is aged over 50 years
- Sensitivity and understanding of issues that affect older people
- Ability to get to and from various locations
- Willingness to attend meetings and training events

## Support provided for you:

- Training will be provided
- Regular monthly meetings with other LAT Community Research volunteers

- Support from the Older Person's Coordinator and research colleagues at Nottingham and Leicester Universities
- Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses such as mileage or public transport costs

### **We hope that by becoming a volunteer you:**

- Enjoy being part of an exciting project aiming to reduce isolation and loneliness in older people in Leicester
- Contribute to the evaluation of the project
- Contribute to the development of research in this field
- Meet new and interesting people
- Learn new skills that could be helpful for future employment opportunities or further learning
- Have fun!

**This volunteer opportunity is subject to two references and a DBS check.**

### **Next steps:**

Contact Louise Hall

email: [louise@leicesteraageingtogether.org.uk](mailto:louise@leicesteraageingtogether.org.uk)

or call **0116 249 8850** and ask for more information and an application form.