

Volunteer Role Description

Title: Socialising Volunteer

Responsible to: Homes Manager

Expected Commitment: Negotiable but looking for one morning or afternoon per week

Location: New Wycliffe Home (Rushey Mead) or Kathleen Rutland Home (Leicester Forest East)

About Us:

Vista changes lives. We are the leading charity working with children and adults with sight loss in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

We are passionate about providing the very best services; in hospitals, at home, in residential care and in the community. Whether someone is newly diagnosed or has lived their whole life with reduced sight, Vista's specialist staff provide a vital lifeline to over 6,000 local people each year.

Primary Objectives:

To socialise with elderly residents providing friendship, support and encouragement and to help create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Responsibilities:

- To communicate and socialise with specified residents, building a relationship of friendship and trust
- To assist with various tasks such as helping read local newspapers or books as required

- To enable specific residents to take part in organized activities such as quizzes and crafts if requested by the resident.

Please note: There will be no aspect of personal care involved in this position.

Qualities and skills we are looking for:

- The ability to act appropriately in an environment that may be emotionally demanding
- To be reliable and have a genuine interest in the desire to make a difference in the lives of visually impaired people
- Good communication skills
- Patience and a warm and friendly attitude.

Support provided for you:

- Visual Impairment Awareness training will be provided and take place at Vista
- Regular newsletters, updates and news from the Homes Managers and/or Volunteer Manager at Vista
- Other training as identified
- Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses such as mileage or public transport costs.

We hope that by becoming a volunteer you:

- Increase your own self confidence
- Meet new and interesting people
- Learn new skills that could be helpful for future employment opportunities or further learning.

Health & Safety:

All volunteers will be expected to:

- Ensure that they comply with Vista's Health & Safety policy at all times

- Take reasonable care for the Health & Safety of themselves and others whom may be affected by their acts or omissions whilst volunteering.

Equality, Diversity and Rights:

Vista is committed to improving the quality of its services to all people, irrespective of race/ethnicity, disability, gender, religion or belief, age or sexual orientation. Our objective is to deliver high quality services that are accessible, responsive, and appropriate to meet the diverse needs of different groups and individuals. As such, we will continue to ensure that staff and volunteers employed by Vista treat every person with dignity, respect and fairness.

This volunteering opportunity is subject to a DBS check and sets out the duties of the role at the time when it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general climate or level of responsibility entailed.

Next steps:

If you are interested in applying, the next step is to complete our volunteer application form. Please download our application form and return to **Vista House, 1A Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR**, or email **volunteering@vistablind.org.uk**. Alternatively, to request a form please email **volunteering@vistablind.org.uk** or call **0116 249 8843** to have one posted.