

Southwark Pensioners Centre



Supporting Older People in Southwark

Eye 2 Eye Practical Eye Volunteer -Buddy

Purpose of the role:

To provide practical support to older people who are living with sight loss

Mission

We support older people aged 50+ to enjoy healthier, independent and more active lives, in touch with each other and their communities.

Eye to Eye aims to provide practical and emotional support increasing access to services and activities for older people living with sight loss, and build an Envision Community to improve understanding and supportive action in the wider community

What will I do?

This role involves being matched and establishing a relationship with an older, visually impaired person who may want regular support with the practicalities of engaging in services and activities that sustain independent, vibrant lives. Such as:

- Accompanying people on trips to the shops, or hospital visits
- Accompanying people to events
- Empowering members to try new interests and be more active
- Helping people to book Drs appointments
- Helping with basic form filling
- Liaise with external providers for services that fall outside of the remit of the project

In additions buddies will support their partner to enable them to attend Eye 2 Eye meetings and events.

Who will I work with?

1. Envision Project Officer
2. Envision Project Assistant
3. Eye to Eye service users
4. SPC staff and volunteers

How much time will I need to give?

1. A minimum of 3 hours per week

What do I need to do this role?

1. Understanding of visual impairment and the impact it has on individuals or an enthusiasm to learn about the topic.
2. Excellent communication skills
3. A 'can do' approach to problems

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Be able to treat people with dignity, empathy and respect 5. Be able to understand and respect the personal values, culture and beliefs of others particularly service users and members 6. Able to work as part of a small team 7. Be polite, punctual and reliable
<p>Are there any other requirements?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As you will be working with vulnerable older people, we will take up two references and a standard DBS check (data barring service). 2. We ask you to attend an induction, role related training, and to come to a volunteer get together every three months or so. 3. We also ask you to sign a volunteer agreement about your voluntary work, abiding by our policies and your hours. 4. We sign it too setting out our commitment to support and develop you.
<p>What will I get out of it?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of working with older people 2. Experience of working with visually impaired people 3. You will gain the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are making a significant difference to the lives of older visually impaired people 4. You will meet new people and be part of the Eye 2 Eye and the wider SPC team 5. You will have fun!
<p>What support will be available to me?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supervision from the Envision Project Staff 2. Support from Operations Manager 3. We will offer you a general induction about volunteering at Southwark Pensioners Centre and training and support about the role itself, including guiding training 4. We will make sure you work in a safe environment 5. Reimburse reasonable lunch and travel expenses in line with our expenses policy