

# Southwark Pensioners Centre



## Practical Eye Volunteer

### 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 will involve a range of different activities that enable older people with visual impairment engage in services and activities that sustain independent, vibrant lives.

Volunteers will be involved in a variety of tasks depending on the need of the members and the skills and interests of the volunteers. This might include:

- Accompanying people on trips to the shops, or hospital visits
- Accompanying people to events
- Help Eye 2 Eye members to participate in activities at SPC
- 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

### 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. We are asking for a minimum commitment of 1-2 days a week

### What do I need to do this role?

1. Understanding of visual impairment or an enthusiasm to learn about the topic.
2. Excellent communication skills
3. A 'can do' approach to problems
4. Be able to treat people with dignity, empathy and respect

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