



The Volunteer Link Scheme
befriending housebound people

Frequently Asked Questions (Potential Volunteers)

Who can volunteer?

Anyone over 18 years old can apply to become a volunteer. The first step is to telephone for an initial chat (without obligation) with the Volunteer Co-ordinator on 020 8434 3635.

Do I get expenses reimbursed?

Volunteers can claim out of pocket expenses, including travel expenses. You will also be insured during your volunteering activity.

Can I volunteer if I am currently unemployed?

Yes, we welcome unemployed volunteers. If you are claiming Jobseekers allowance you need to ensure that you continue to meet the requirements of the Job Centre, including signing on. Usually Job Centres are positive about volunteering, seeing it as a way to enhance and increase your skills which can be useful for paid work. We ask that you find a way to continue your volunteering with us should you take up paid work.

What will I learn at the training?

Our Induction training covers all aspects of befriending, including communications skills, boundaries, health and safety, difficult situations and what to do in an emergency. There is also plenty of time to ask questions and address any queries that you have about volunteering with us.

How long will it take before I am linked to a client?

The process can be lengthy, usually due to the time it takes to carry out a DBS check. From your initial contact with the VLS until your first link, should take about 10 weeks.