

## Companionship Volunteer

**Name of the role:** Companionship Volunteer

**Lead staff member:** Joe Barana, Housing First

**Where will you be volunteering:** Various locations within the community

**How often do we ask you to volunteer:** 2 hours, once a week

**Description of tasks and responsibilities:** As a Companionship Volunteer, your role will involve providing support and companionship to individuals with complex needs, including those with a history of homelessness, mental health challenges, and substance misuse issues. You might be accompanying them to coffee shops, going on walks, or maybe going for a gym session. By offering your time and companionship, you can positively impact their lives.

Volunteers for this role will receive a full induction and any necessary training, including a DBS check, before beginning their volunteering journey. You will always have a staff member to debrief with, ensuring you have essential support and guidance throughout your volunteering experience.

**What current skills/experience would be beneficial?** We are looking for caring, non-judgmental individuals with good listening skills. Any experience or understanding of homelessness, mental health, or substance misuse issues would be beneficial but not essential. A compassionate and friendly demeanour and the willingness to actively engage with individuals in social settings are highly valued.

**Why is this role important?** Your time and commitment as a Companionship Volunteer are crucial in providing much-needed support and connection for individuals who may not have family or friends to spend time with. Without volunteers like you, these deserving individuals might experience social isolation and lack opportunities for positive engagement. Your presence and companionship can significantly enhance their well-being and help them navigate through their challenges.

**What will you gain from this volunteer role?** Volunteering as a Companionship Volunteer offers a chance to learn new skills, interact with diverse individuals, and make a meaningful difference in their lives. You will be able to develop your communication and listening skills, gain insights into complex needs and social issues, and experience the fulfilment that comes from supporting others.

**Expenses paid?** Yes, we can cover travel expenses to and from your volunteering place.

**Sounds great! How can I get involved?** To get involved, please complete our online application form or email Joe Barana at [joe@aspireoxford.co.uk](mailto:joe@aspireoxford.co.uk) if you would like to arrange an informal chat about this role.