

Befriending Volunteer

What we do

Established in 1941, Brunelcare is an award winning Bristol based charity providing high quality housing, care and support for older people in the South West.

Today, across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Somerset, Brunelcare works to support people to remain as independent as possible, for as long as possible.

Care is provided in people's own homes, in specialist care homes, a respite facility and through our day centres. Housing is provided by 1,000 properties, across 33 sites, three extra care housing sites and a retirement village.

What you could do

Befriending is the perfect role if you're looking to provide regular one on one social interaction to brighten someone's day. We will match you with someone who might be feeling lonely or isolated, and would benefit from a chat.

You could be visiting someone in their home for a chat and a cup of tea, meeting in a local coffee shop, going for a walk together or calling for a chat over the phone. Whatever contact you have, you will be making a difference to the life of the person you are supporting, offering valuable company and social interaction.

You don't need any experience or a wide range of skills, being friendly, approachable and understanding is far more important. As is a good listening ear and non-judgemental attitude.

****Please note: you will not be expected to provide any personal care such as washing, dressing, administering medication etc****

Where you could do this

Befriending can take place wherever someone needs it. This could be in one of our sheltered housing sites across Bristol, in an Extra Care site or even in someone's own home out in the community. We will work with you to find someone who is a good fit for you, and in the best location.

All our sites are easily accessible by public transport, walking, and cycling, and many have car parks or free parking nearby.

When you can do this

Befriending can be done at a time and place to best suit you and the person you are supporting. We don't ask for a minimum time commitment, or any set hours, and volunteering with us can be flexible to fit around work, studying, family and other commitments. However, befriending does work best when it is a regular, long term commitment.

This could be the role for you if you

- are friendly, understanding and helpful
- are a good communicator, able to interact with a wide range of people
- are a good listener, able to actively listen, as well as enjoying a good chat
- are reliable with good time management skills
- want to make a difference and improve the lives of others

What we can offer you

- a free DBS check
- a reference for future employment or studying
- paid travel expenses
- an induction, and ongoing training and development
- a dedicated volunteer supervisor for support and regular check ins
- the chance to meet new people and make a difference

What to do next

If you're interested or would like to know more, please get in touch:

info@brunelcare.org.uk or 0117 914 4200.