

Role Description - Link Up Volunteer

The Linking Up Service offers face to face social contact and is a positive step to engage with people who may have little or no contact with others.

The role is to provide your client with some social contact in their own home through regular visits. They will generally be someone that is housebound, or does not have the confidence to get out and about. You are not there to become their friend in the true sense, but are there as a volunteer to offer social contact.

It is the social contact that is important so it doesn't matter what you end up talking about or doing together. You may have some shared interests that you could do together such as a jigsaw puzzle, or a craft, or equally perhaps you just have a cup of tea together.

The visit times can be flexible to suit the time you have available to give. The aim is to have friendly and informal chats on a regular basis to help reduce the feeling of isolation. It may be that you visit each week or fortnight, or visit and then give them a telephone call in between. It is about finding a pattern that suits you both.

We will occasionally be arranging social events for everyone involved with our Linking Up Service and if it fits with you it would be great if you could attend with your clients.

You will need to be warm and friendly, and be able to make conversation with a wide range of different people. You are not there to offer advice, but to converse and also listen and support where necessary.

Please contact Sheridan on 07852 172998 or email <u>sheridan.rocher@ageconcernpetersfield.org.uk</u> if you would like to know more.