

**Volunteer Role:**

Home Visiting / Telephone Befriender

Location:

Home / Telephone visits in your local area

Role Overview:

To offer regular, friendly, home or telephone visits to individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially sighted and deafblind who may be isolated or in need of social connection. The role focuses on providing companionship, conversation, and support using appropriate communication methods, helping to reduce loneliness and enhance wellbeing.

Key Responsibilities:

- Regularly visit individuals in their homes or make scheduled phone calls, as agreed upon with the Volunteering team and the individual
- Provide friendly conversation on a regular basis
- Communicate effectively
- Build rapport and develop a positive relationship over time
- Encourage confidence and social engagement where appropriate
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and respect the privacy and independence of the person

- Share any concerns or relevant feedback with the Volunteering Team, in line with safeguarding procedures
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Skills and Experience:

- Friendly, empathetic, and a good communicator
 - Reliable and able to commit to regular visits
 - Ability to volunteer independently with guidance and support
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Training and Support Provided:

- Sensory Awareness Training
 - Drop in monthly BSL sessions.
 - Reimbursement of agreed travel and volunteer expenses.
 - Opportunities for further training and involvement in community events.
 - Sighted guide training
 - Safeguarding training
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Commitment:

- Ideally 1–2 hours per week, with flexibility to suit both volunteer and the person we support
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Volunteers who support people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind may have skills in the following areas:

- BSL level 2 or above
- Lip reading
- Sign Supported English
- deafblind visual frame/ hands on signing

Volunteers are required to have an enhanced check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey would apply for this on your behalf at no cost to yourself.

To apply for this role, please visit our website at <https://sightforsurrey.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>