**Artist or Performer**

Supporting older people living with dementia and memory loss

The Dementia Befriending supports people to live independently and safely at home for as long as possible, stay socially engaged and carry on doing what they love. The service supports Camden residents over the age of 55 in the early or moderate stages of dementia.

We offer clients from the Dementia Services (befriending and wellbeing) to avail of a short performance given by an artist/musician/ performer.

**In this role you will:**

* Deliver a short performance to an older person or provide an opportunity for them to participate in an activity**.**
* Liaise with service coordinators to link with clients who have asked to receive these visits/calls
* Provide feedback after every performance, including any positive impact or concerns regarding the client.

Many of the clients we support in this service are housebound or do not have the confidence or opportunity to attend events. Some people are artists and performers who do not get an opportunity to engage with this aspect of their lives anymore.

Giving people who are living with memory loss an opportunity to be part of creative activities is a stimulating, fun way of putting them in touch with memories, other people and the wider community.

**We are looking for people who have:**

* An interest in sharing or performing their creative, artistic, musical or performance skills.
* Good verbal and written skills in English
* Enjoy conversation.
* A desire to learn more about an individual and their interests and their past, and life history
* Consistency and reliability
* An ability to empathise and understand the needs and experiences of an individual with dementia and memory loss.
* Understanding of Confidentiality
* Patience and Sensitivity
* Confidence to deal with emergencies
* Requirement to undertake induction training and follow guidelines and policies of Age UK Camden

**Volunteering Hours**

Performances: approx. 20 -30 minutes

4 - 6 visits a year (you can opt to do more).

Visits will be a time agreed between you and the older person you are matched with.

**Training and induction is provided for the role and includes:**

* Dementia Awareness – online course
* Induction session
* Data Security Awareness for Volunteers
* Safeguarding Adults for Volunteers

**We will give you:**

* Ongoing support including regular supervision by the coordinator of the service.
* Reimbursement of agreed expenses
* Access to Volunteer Forum events

**If you are interested, we will ask you to:**

* Complete an application form
* Meet with Dementia Services staff member
* Provide details of two Referees
* Complete an Enhanced DBS check (we arrange this with you)
* Induction and training (as laid out above)

We understand that completing the various steps takes time and we support and keep in touch with you through the process.

As this role brings our volunteers into regular contact with vulnerable older people, we make sure that all volunteers understand their role and have completed our recruitment procedures to both our and their satisfaction.

**Thank you**

You can find out more about the Dementia Services and Age UK Camden here:

[www.ageukcamden.org.uk](http://www.ageukcamden.org.uk)