

Volunteer Task Description

Title	Activities Volunteer - Mental Health Inpatient Ward - St Brelades and Herm Wards, Alderney Hospital
Why we want you	To enhance the patient's experience by encouraging conversation and participation in meaningful activities during their hospital stay. Volunteers may support patients individually or in small groups within the day room, always under appropriate staff supervision. We're looking for someone patient, warm-hearted, and genuinely interested in connecting with older people and those living with dementia.
Accountability	• All volunteers are accountable to a member of staff and will fulfil their roles under the same health and safety guidelines and keep patient information confidential. • Volunteers will be accountable to the Ward Manager in their designated area/ward. • Volunteers are subject to a DBS disclosure if deemed necessary for the role.
Where	St Brelades & Herm Wards Alderney Hospital Ringwood Road Poole Dorset BH12 4NB
When	Volunteering sessions will normally take place between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Sunday, in accordance with service needs and as agreed with the Ward Manager.
Commitment	A minimum commitment of 6 months, so you have time to build relationships with patients and get the most from your experience.
Duration	2 - 4 hours per week
Requirements	As an 'Activities' volunteer in our hospital you will: • be aged 18 years or older • be interested in and have respect for people • be a good listener • have patience, tolerance, and compassion • enjoy spending time with others, and have a sociable nature • be confident and able to use your initiative • be responsible, flexible, and dependable • enjoy helping others • be able to work in a team • be observant • be discreet and maintain confidentiality • have compassion and understanding for vulnerable people at a difficult time in their lives
What's in it for you	• Participating in a meaningful and valuable experience • Exposure to the healthcare environment • Interaction with older people living with dementia • Making a difference to the quality of a person's life

Role Summary	Activities:- • Welcome patients into the day room/lounge and help create a friendly, inclusive atmosphere • Encourage and support patients with available activities in the day room. These may include:- ○ Board games, card games, or quizzes ○ Arts and crafts ○ Reading newspapers or books with patients ○ Reminiscence work ○ Sensory activities ○ 1:1 companionship ○ Music based activities ○ Light social interaction and conversation ○ Seasonal or themed activities organised by the ward ○ Multi-cultural events • Assist with celebrating patients' birthdays • Assist with Carers coffee mornings or events • Approach Nursing Staff and ask them to identify patients who would most benefit from some company and participate in an activity - only engage with patients identified by Nursing Staff as suitable for activities on that day, as patients' needs and presentation may change • Help set up activities and clear down after the activity session • Clean resources between patient use • General tidying to help to make the day room, patient and visiting areas welcoming for everyone • Supporting with "Grounds Leave" - walks with the patients with staff supervision (if you feel comfortable to do so) • Respect each patient's individuality, life history, and personal preferences • Observe and gently report any changes in a patient's mood, behaviour, or wellbeing to Nursing Staff
Training	• Trust Induction • Trust Mandatory Training • Breakaway Training • On site/ward training specific to the role • Any other relevant training • Wheelchair training must be completed before using
Our volunteers	must not: • undertake observation duties • provide patient supervision • escort patients independently will not handle: • patient identifiable data • clinical waste • body fluids • instruments/needles/syringes • contaminated waste No manual handling i.e. lifting will: • always work alongside ward staff and seek guidance when unsure • observe infection prevention and control practices at all times • adhere to Trust policies i.e., Data Security Awareness and Confidentiality
For more information, please contact	Volunteer Hub dhc.volunteers@nhs.net Tel: 01202 443261