

**Volunteering Opportunity Outline**

**Name of opportunity: Dementia Companion**

<b>Department :</b>	<b>Capener Ward</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>NDDH, Barnstaple</b>
<b>General outline of role:</b>	<p>The purpose of the role is to enhance the care we provide for dementia patients by providing companionship.</p> <p>No direct care involved.</p>
<b>Key responsibilities and tasks:</b>	<p>To provide companionship for dementia patients.</p> <p>To communicate any relevant patient information promptly to the ward nursing staff.</p>
<b>Key tasks involved:</b>	<p>Chatting to patients, reading, playing cards or doing a jigsaw puzzle, drawing or painting, singing – finding a way to engage patients whilst on the ward according to their individual needs and interests.</p>
<b>Key people the volunteer will be working with:</b>	<p>Volunteers will always work under the direct guidance of ward nursing staff, who are responsible for the patients' care and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Time commitment:</b>	<p>We ask that volunteers commit to 2-4 hours per week at a mutually convenient time for a period of 6 months initially.</p>
<b>Skills required:</b>	<p>No previous care experience necessary, though valuable.</p> <p>An ability to approach patients and their families with confidence, warmth and compassion and to be sensitive and tactful, reliable and trustworthy.</p> <p>To be emotionally mature and have the ability to be mindful and respectful of individual patients' needs and behaviours.</p>

	<p><b>An understanding and ability to learn the importance of personal and professional boundaries.</b></p> <p><b>An understanding that dementia patients can potentially become confused – or sometimes aggressive.</b></p>
<b>Specific educational requirements of qualifications:</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Workplace training required for the role, if appropriate:</b>	<p><b>Volunteers will attend a half day induction session, to familiarise them with the Trust, its policies and procedures.</b></p> <p><b>Specific guidance and training alongside ward nursing staff, and will be ongoing. Access to further training may be available.</b></p>
<b>Other benefits:</b>	<p><b>Benefits include free parking when volunteering and staff discount in the main staff restaurant, in addition to local discount schemes. If required, we are able to pay either a mileage or public transport allowance.</b></p> <p><b>An opportunity to develop new skills and access ongoing professional development.</b></p> <p><b>Employment references may be offered after the initial 6 month period.</b></p>
<b>Will driving be required?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Is this post subject to a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) Check?</b>	<b>Yes</b>