Role Summary/Purpose

The Moorside Unit provides inpatient mental health services for adults and older people. We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic volunteers to join our existing team to provide a range of diversional activities to support our patients’ recovery and to improve their experience of being a patient with us. Feedback from our inpatient surveys tells us that whilst our patients rate the quality of care highly, they do report that they experience boredom. The Volunteer Activities Assistant role has been developed to help alleviate this boredom and to demonstrate to our patients that we are listening to them and really do care. It complements the work of our Support Time Recovery Workers and Occupational Therapists and aims to improve our patient’s treatment outcomes. The role involves co-delivering activities such as arts and crafts, beauty care, discussion groups and games (we do welcome ideas for new activities) and encouraging patient participation. It also involves providing social support - a warm welcome, a cup of tea or coffee and a listening ear.

Please see below the requirements that you must be able to meet in order to apply for this role.

Main Duties & Responsibilities:

Thank you for your interest in this role. As part of the role we require you to:

- To be available for at least two hours per week (hours are negotiable as this is a volunteer role but we do ask for a weekly or fortnightly commitment)
- To co-deliver, with at least one other volunteer, a range of activities to support our patients’ recovery and enhance their inpatient experience
- To provide social support - a warm welcome, a cup of tea or coffee and a listening ear
- To sensitively encourage and support patients to take part in the activities offered
- To comply with all Trust policies and procedures but in particular in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and information sharing
- To work as part of the Moorside Team to receive and share information in order to safeguard individuals and support them to work towards their recovery
Requirements for the Role:

In order to fulfil the duties of this role we ask that you:

- Are aged 18 and over
- Have an understanding of mental health and the recovery process through your own lived experience, studies or work
- Can commit to at least two hours per week, weekly or fortnightly
- Are able to organise and deliver group activities
- Are able to work as part of a team and to support your co-volunteer(s)
- Are able to listen and communicate effectively and sensitively encourage patient participation
- Have a basic understanding of safeguarding vulnerable adults and children
- Have a basic understanding of confidentiality and information sharing legislation
- Have a basic understanding of professional boundaries
- Have respect and compassion for others and their right to choose and to be treated with dignity

Please note: we strongly recommend that you check with the Benefits Agency that your commitment to volunteering does not penalise you in any way and does not affect your benefits.

This role is unpaid; however, we will reimburse all travel expenses for training and volunteering in line with Trust Policy.