# Care Home Volunteer – role profile

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| What is a Care Home Volunteer? |
| Care Home Volunteers make sure decisions are made in the best interests of someone who doesn’t have capacity. Their aim is to make sure that clients who cannot safely leave their own care setting:* are empowered to make genuine choices about their life
* are heard, in whatever way they can communicate their wishes
* receive the best possible care and support from staff and services

This role supports our Relevant Person’s Representative (RPR) advocate to provide, on top of the advocate’s statutory role, additional visits to someone who, due to their care needs, is under a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard. This means the person has been assessed as being unable to safely leave where they are living on their own. In partnership with the RPR, Care Home Volunteers will check that despite the restrictions, the person receives the best care possible.  |
| What will I do? |
| **Before you start**Complete our application process, training, and shadowing to a satisfactory standard. Then, depending on your preferences, set a day and time to regularly volunteer a few hours. You will be introduced to an RPR advocate whose work you will be supporting.**At your first session**The RPR will visit the person’s home, to introduce you and staff. They will take you through the person’s Care Plan and any ongoing issues. **At sessions that follow**You’ll meet the person on your own, usually once a month, for 30 mins to an hour. You’ll ask the person if they are happy, ask staff about any issues and check that the setting is still appropriate for the person.**What happens next**After every visit you’ll complete a brief report and send it to the advocate. If you raise an issue or have any concerns, the advocate will assess the situation and take the appropriate action. If everything is fine, then every third month the advocate will come with you. The advocate will write a report based on what you have both observed. Experienced volunteers can take on more cases, during their usual volunteering times. |
| Is this role suitable for me?  |
| This role is currently available in the following areas:  | Hampshire and Southampton  |
| Do I need to be able to travel? (reasonable expenses always covered).  | Yes - to reach a local care home or other care setting.  |
| Can I do this role at the evenings and weekend? | No – except research or reporting.  |
| Is this role suitable for under 18s? | No. |
| What is the usual time spent volunteering in this role? | 2-3 hours every week.  |
| What can I expect from VoiceAbility? |
| * the opportunity to make a positive difference to people with care and support needs
* the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and gain experience in your chosen volunteering role/s
* the opportunity to help us develop our volunteering work
* volunteer induction training and training specific to any volunteering role you undertake
* 1:1 support from VoiceAbility staff including regular feedback
* a reference if you complete over six months of volunteering
* the equipment you need to complete your role
* reimbursement of expenses and travel costs in line with VoiceAbility policy
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| What do VoiceAbility expect from me? |
| * to complete the recruitment process including providing two references and completing a DBS check (VoiceAbility will cover the cost of this)
* to complete all necessary training
* to understand and sign the Volunteering Agreement
* to perform your role in a way that is consistent with VoiceAbility’s values
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| What do I need to do next?  |
| Please download and complete an application form from voiceability.org. If you have any problems doing this, email helpline@voiceability.org or call the helpline on 0300 303 1660. Our team will then contact you to arrange a 30–45 minute meeting to check volunteering with us is right for you. **We would like to encourage people with lived experience of care and support needs to apply for our role.** |