

Recruitment of Volunteers for Good Neighbour Project Through the Job Start Mentoring Service

People who have been unemployed long term or are returning to employment after bringing up a family etc often have little practical experience to put on their C.V. By encouraging them to take part in the Good Neighbour Volunteering Project it would be an opportunity to gain experience and show prospective employers that they are willing to learn.

The volunteering will not affect their benefits.

The volunteers will also be making a positive difference to the community that they live in. In return volunteers on the Project will be able to say they have gained a little experience of working with older people, been part of a team and we will be able to give references after a suitable amount of time.

A small amount of training will be given to volunteers and CRB checks will be carried out by Age Concern. Support will be on-going from the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator.

The Role Of the Volunteer

One volunteer will operate a mobile phone which will be the central contact number and is held by volunteers willing to be “duty officers” on a rota basis (e.g. half a day per week). The hours that the service runs will be specified and the phone can be switched off when the service is not operational e.g. during the night.

The “duty officer” will take calls and record the relevant information and then pass on the task to the most suitable volunteer to undertake the request.

Other volunteers will work on a rota basis to carry out tasks such as:

- *Changing light bulbs*
- *Preparing emergency meals (heating up a tin of soup or scrambled egg etc.)*
- *Collecting prescriptions in an emergency situation*
- *Shopping for the food basics*

Training will be given to volunteers – Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
Back Care/Manual Handling
Services Available – Statutory and voluntary
First Aid Basics
Confusion (acute etc.)

The service is designed to give short term help (help in first 24 hours of illness etc) until more formal help can be arranged through Social Services and the Care Agencies.