

# Volunteer Role Description

## Communication Service

### Supporter



#### Role Summary

About 30% of stroke survivors will experience communication difficulties after their stroke which can make daily living extremely challenging. As a Communication Service Supporter you will be supporting stroke survivors whose communication has been affected by their stroke to develop new strategies to aid their communication. In doing so you will help people to build their confidence, achieve personal goals and promote independence.

#### Tasks this role can include:

- Providing focused support to facilitate the communication of stroke survivors in small groups, known as workshop blocks that last between six to twelve weeks.
- Providing focused support to facilitate the communication of stroke survivors on a one-to-one basis in their homes.
- Providing focused support to facilitate the communication of stroke survivors to enable them to access activities and services in their local community.
- Where a service is able to provide more long term support you may have the opportunity to support stroke survivors in a group setting that offers more social/informal activities.
- Helping to develop and deliver new communication activities or ways of supporting stroke survivors.

#### This might be the role for you if:

- You have excellent listening skills.
- You have excellent communication skills.
- You are willing to learn and use the technique, called 'supported conversation', that is used to support people with communication difficulties.
- You are willing to try new things and adapt to the needs of the person you are supporting.

## The benefits for you:

- Practical experience of working with people with communication difficulties that could enhance your career or studies.
- An opportunity to learn methods and techniques that can aid communication.
- An understanding and awareness of stroke and its effects and the challenges people face after stroke.
- An opportunity to enhance your CV or learn new skills.
- An opportunity to engage with your local community.
- Experience with a well-respected charity delivering sector-leading services.

## Support and training provided:

### **Mandatory Training** (Volunteers MUST complete this training to perform the role)

- The Stroke Association Volunteer Induction (face to face – one full day).
- Personal Safety for Volunteers (webinar – two hours). \* *Only mandatory if making home or solo community visits.*

### **Additional Learning Opportunities** (Further relevant learning you can undertake)

- Introduction to Mentoring and Befriending Training.
- Safeguarding.
- Client Assist.
- Hidden Effects of Stroke.
- Emotional Impact of Stroke.
- Supporting People with Aphasia (online and / or face to face courses).

### **Ongoing Support and Training**

- Ongoing and regular training and support as the role requires.
- Out of pocket expenses are reimbursed.
- Induction area on STAR.

*A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at an enhanced or standard level is required for this role.*

Stroke Helpline	Website	Phone	Fax	Textphone
0303 30 33 100	<a href="http://www.stroke.org.uk">www.stroke.org.uk</a>	020 7566 0300	020 7490 2686	020 7251 9096

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