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# VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

This document describes the main aspects of the volunteer role and any particular skills or experience that will be needed to successfully carry out the role.

## TITLE: Sight Loss Council Member

Sight Loss Councils are currently expanding their reach across England to enable people with sight loss the opportunity to influence positive change and improve services at a national and local level.

Each Sight Loss Council aims to make a difference by representing the voice of blind and partially sighted people in the key areas of health, employment, education, transport, and sport.

### Main aspects of the role

* To draw from your personal experience as a person with vision impairment, contributing your skills and knowledge to benefit the key aims of the Sight Loss Council.
* To consult and engage with vision impaired people in local communities to identify the key issues and barriers faced specifically in relation to the aims of the Sight Loss Council.
* Attend regular Sight Loss Council meetings to represent the views and experiences of people living with sight loss in your community.
* To make valuable contributions to Sight Loss Council meetings, suggesting and discussing creative solutions and helping to develop clear strategies for influencing and delivering change.
* To establish cooperative relationships with other Sight Loss Council members and organisations, promoting a positive environment for meaningful discussion, information sharing, problem solving and effective planning.
* To represent the Sight Loss Council at various accessibility testing sessions, formal meetings, seminars and forums and contribute to public consultations.

### Skills, experience and qualities needed

* You should be a person with sight loss.
* Be able to positively engage with others.
* Demonstrate excellent listening and communication skills.
* Confident in using technology for checking emails etc, or a willingness to learn
* Have the ability to think creatively and solve problems.
* Be able to negotiate, cooperate and influence.
* Be enthusiastic about campaigning and lobbying.
* Show reliability and commitment with good time management skills.

### What you will learn and achieve

* An understanding of the issues affecting local people with sight loss.
* A chance to do something positive with the potential to influence change.
* We will provide information and support in public speaking, campaigning and advocacy.
* The opportunity to demonstrate your organisation, communication skills and commitment – which looks great on a CV.

We can provide references for all our committed volunteers after two months or eight episodes of volunteering. We can reimburse essential travel expenses that are agreed in advance.

Date of issue: 17/12/18

END