



Person Specification - Advocate

The volunteer will need to:

- maintain confidentiality
- respect and maintain boundaries
- possess a high standard of active listening skills
- be empathically understanding
- appropriately assertive
- open to the views of others and non-judgmental
- discreet and tolerant
- flexible
- able to work in an empowering way.

Where volunteering takes place

This varies and can take place in a number of settings depending on the needs of the partnership e.g. leisure or educational setting, care environment, own home or at Onside's office.

Time Commitment

This varies and requires flexible arrangement to be agreed after negotiation with all parties involved. It is certainly possible to organise your volunteering around your other commitments.

Accountability

Each partnership is unique; accountability is to the partner in the first instance. Onside, however, maintains the right to regular contact with both partner and volunteer.

Role Description of a Volunteer Advocate

Purpose of Role

The purpose of the role of the advocate is to provide advocacy support to an individual who is disadvantaged by ill health, disability or old age. The aim of such support is to ensure people's rights are upheld, their views heard and respected and that they have fair and equal access to sources of support.

Activities

The advocate will take on a number of roles including:

- spokesperson
- listener
- supporter
- confidante
- information source

This will depend on the requirements of the advocacy partnership.

Support Available to the Advocate

As stated in the Code of Practice, Onside will provide core training and ongoing support dependent on the needs of the partnership. This includes specialist training opportunities, provision of appropriate information, a newsletter and peer support opportunities.