

Role Title	Meaningful Activity Volunteer
Purpose of the role	To take part in meaningful activities with patients to offer reassurance, diversional therapy and rehabilitation.
Where	Meaningful Activity Centres/Wards/Units across NHS Lothian (excludes the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People).
When	Monday to Friday, with some evenings and weekends possible (timings vary between hospitals/sites).
Tasks to be undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out meaningful activities on a 1:1 basis with patients, such as painting, pampering, games, music, looking at old photos, quizzes etc • Taking part in socialising group activities such as arts & crafts, movies and listening to music • Supporting the set up and tidy up of activities e.g., afternoon teas and crafts • Support patients with physical activities e.g., accompanying patients for walks on/off the ward or pushing patients in wheelchairs for time off the ward, with the consent of nursing staff • Accompany staff to collect patients from wards to bring to meaningful activity centres • Help patients to complete menu cards • Assist patients with drinks and snacks by cutting up food, opening up packets and prompting as directed by staff • To bring to the attention any concerns about a patient to a member of nursing staff
Tasks not to be undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical care, including first aid • Personal care – e.g., toileting, changing • Manual handling of patients – assisting to stand, transferring from bed to chair, getting in and out of a wheelchair • Collecting patients independently from wards without accompanying staff • Shopping for patients – taking cash from patients, using cash machines with patients • Giving advice
Skills, Attitudes and Experience needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident communicator with a good grasp of English (this includes verbal, written and listening skills) • Non-judgemental, able to demonstrate sensitivity and patience • Reliable and committed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear demonstration of empathy and an understanding of the needs of patients and their families • Proactive in approaching patients • Able to follow instructions and a willingness to learn • Ability to adapt communication styles to individual needs • Creative approach to engaging patients in activities • Commitment to delivering high standards and a quality service • Understanding of the need to adhere to all health and safety, and fire regulations. To cooperate with the NHS in maintaining good standards of health and safety. • Understanding of the need to adhere to NHS Lothian confidentiality policy • Commitment to demonstrating NHS Lothian values and behaviours
Level of Disclosure Scotland Check Required	<p>This role involves regulated activity with adults and therefore you will be asked to join the PVG scheme to work with adults. If you are already a member, your membership will be updated.</p> <p>Please note: This will be requested for you and paid for by NHS Lothian, you do not need to apply or pay for this yourself.</p>
Training	<p>Training will be given on all aspects of the role.</p> <p>Manual handling training must be completed prior to pushing wheelchairs.</p> <p>Volunteers are strongly encouraged to do Dementia Awareness training.</p>
Support /Supervision	<p>Day to day support will be provided to you by the ward or department your volunteering is based within. Ongoing training and support will be provided to you by the Voluntary Services Team.</p>
Expenses	<p>Out of pocket travel expenses will be reimbursed in line with NHS Lothian's Volunteer Expenses Procedure</p>
How to apply / what happens next	<p>Complete our online application form here: https://www.nhsllothian.scot/getinvolved/volunteering/online-application-form/</p> <p>Volunteers will be invited to attend a semi-formal interview, followed by mandatory training and a local induction for their chosen role.</p>
Role created date	<p>July 2020 Reviewed May 2024</p>