

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer role title

Fenland Community Cancer Champion

Reporting to

Head of Business Services (in capacity as project manager for the Fenland Community Cancer Champions project)

Where will you be based

Local to Fenland District

Why we want you

Our Community Cancer Champions help expand the reach of our project supporting those affected by cancer living in Fenland District and help us raise awareness about cancer in local communities. You will help support and promote our events and activities to raise awareness, address stigma, increase knowledge and encourage open discussions about cancer. By joining us, you'll be working alongside our Macmillan Village Agents to support your local community. Together, we can be there for people impacted by cancer.

What will you be doing?

We want anyone to be able to become a Community Cancer Champion. The tasks you will do will vary depending on the needs of your local community and how much time you can give. These are some of the key things we will need you to do:

1. **Talking:** help to promote the local services by having simple conversations helping people be cancer aware and taking early action on any issues which are causing concern.
2. **Encouraging:** support people in taking simple actions which helps them receive the support or help they may need.
3. **Listening:** hear about what prevents people taking steps or the barriers which need to be overcome to improve the way services are promoted or accessed.
4. **Reducing stigma:** sharing key messages which provide clear, positive information and break down some of the 'myths' which exists about cancer and those who live with it.
5. **Caring:** talk with sensitivity in a way which respects and reaches out to people at home, in the workplace, in social situations and in the community.
6. **Learning:** every engagement or conversation teaches us something about what living with cancer is like for people. Champions learn from each conversation and the training opportunities which are provided as part of the programme.

There are lots of ways this could happen, such as:

- Being a resource in your workplace or in your social group to help share information or act as a point of contact.
- Helping promote or extend the reach of the project through social media by sharing messages and making sure that more and more people are reached.
- Taking part in an event or helping to build awareness, either independently or alongside our Macmillan Village Agents.

What skills will you need?

- Good communication skills
- Active listener
- Discretion
- Non-judgemental and supportive approach
- Compassion and empathy
- Respective and sensitive to others' values, cultures, customers, differences and choices
- Basic IT skills (i.e. use of email and ability to complete simple forms)
- Local knowledge of the Fenland area
- It will be helpful if you can drive and have your own vehicle as this will allow you to volunteer outside your immediate home village/town but this isn't essential

Other requirements

- You must be aged 18 or over
- You must abide by Cambridgeshire ACRE's volunteer policies and procedures

What training is offered?

We offer a range of training which will help you extend your knowledge about cancer, build the skills and confidence to have good conversations in different settings while maintaining boundaries and develop an understanding about how good physical and mental health habits can be supported.

What's in it for you?

- Gain personal satisfaction from making a difference to the wellbeing of your community.
- Build wider connections within the community and understand how Macmillan, health systems and charities work.
- Develop practical skills, including communication and networking.
- Develop skills and confidence through hands-on experience. This can improve your career prospects if you are in or seeking employment.
- Meet new people as part of a friendly team that makes a difference.
- Receive an induction, relevant training, the support you need to carry out your role, and agreed out-of-pocket expenses (reimbursed within our guidelines).
- Ongoing support from our project manager and Macmillan Village Agent team.

How do I get involved?

We start by asking you to complete our short online volunteer application form.

This will be followed up by a simple informal conversation with one of our team – no strings or expectations – to check in with you about what you would like to achieve by becoming a Community Cancer Champion, what you have to offer and how best we can support you. This can be in person, on the phone or online whichever suits you. If this goes well, you will be invited to take part in an in-person induction training session.

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