



New Year New Start!

Volunteers required for vital roles in helping to support older people



Royal Voluntary Service is one of the largest voluntary service organisations in the country and inspires and enables 20,000 volunteers to give their skills, experience, energy and time to help people in need in hospitals, at home and in the community. Locally in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland we support approximately 2,000 older people per year with our services.

These services include helping older people who have been discharged from hospital to rebuild their confidence and remain independent once they return home, providing transport to help with shopping, attending hospital appointments or support with social opportunities. In addition our volunteers provide valuable company and friendship as well as making sure that the older person is safe and well.

Teresa Gibbs – Commissioned Services Operations Manager for Royal Voluntary Service: “The demand for our services is always increasing and as a result of this we are looking to recruit more volunteers to allow us to continue to offer the support to local older people. Our volunteers make a significant and positive difference to older people’s lives and without their incredible contribution we would certainly not be able to provide the current level and range of services.”



Chris Cordle, a retired NHS medical psychologist from Leicester, is a Royal Voluntary Service volunteer. She delivers the charity's Home from Hospital service which helps settle older people back into home after a hospital stay. She says: "I missed the satisfaction of working with people - I loved that part of my job. Volunteering has filled that gap. I enjoy working with older people, hearing their stories and helping them to achieve their aims. Much of my career was about motivating and helping people, and that's what I'm still doing now. I really enjoy encouraging people to achieve their personal targets. It's very satisfying."

We would really like to hear from local people who may be interested in this very worthwhile volunteering opportunity, a couple of hours per week really can make a real difference to the quality of older people's lives.

To find out more please email leicsrutlandhub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or call 0116 2667706.

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Notes to editors

About Royal Voluntary Service

- Royal Voluntary Service is one of the largest voluntary service organisations in the country. We inspire and enable 20,000 volunteers to give their skills, experience, energy and time to help people in need in hospitals, at home and in the community.
- Originally set up as the Women's Voluntary Service (subsequently the WRVS) in 1938, the charity started out helping civilians during the Second World War.
- To mark our 75th anniversary in 2013, we changed our name to 'Royal Voluntary Service' to reflect the role played by all our volunteers, men as well as women.
- The charity's volunteers improve patient experience in hospital, aid recovery after a stay on ward, help older people better support themselves at home and stay fit and active and build meaningful social connections.
- Royal Voluntary Service supports volunteers to run services in the community such as lunch and dining clubs, physical activity classes, craft, gardening and other hobby groups.
- The charity is one of the UK's largest hospital retailers with 230 volunteer-run shops, cafes and trolley services providing tea and company to patients, hospital staff and visitors. Royal Voluntary Service promotes healthy eating and drinking in hospitals through its *Healthier Choices* programme. It has been ranked top of the [Healthy Hospital Food League Table](#) by the Campaign for Better Hospital Food and has been awarded a Social Enterprise Mark for its retail operation.
- We work collaboratively with other charities, social care providers and the NHS to help create a society where everyone feels valued and involved. We are partnering with [HelpForce](#) to scale up the number of volunteers embedded in the NHS.
- For more information on the Royal Voluntary Service, please visit <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/>

