

Age Concern Sheffield

Volunteer advisers

Do you think vulnerable older people deserve high quality and innovative services to help them maintain or regain their independence? Would you like to help us in our work to improve the lives of older people in Sheffield? Age Concern Sheffield is looking for volunteer advisers who would like to help us to develop our services. We aim to provide support to older people to help them to continue living independent lives. But what should this support look like? We believe groups of interested people can help us to identify the types of products and services that would be really welcomed by older people in Sheffield.

Your role

As an Age Concern Sheffield volunteer adviser you will join one of our group discussions to:

- develop new ideas for services for older people;
- provide critical feedback to help us to gauge the feasibility and popularity of new ideas;
- help us work out acceptable pricing levels for new services;
- review the content and presentation of our promotional materials to make sure they are suitable for the people we want to reach.

Timing and location of discussions

As a volunteer, it is for you to decide how much time you want to offer us. Our aim is to run a series of group discussions to give as many people as possible the opportunity to be involved. You will not need to commit to anything more than an initial meeting, but we may approach you for further advice as we test and develop new services.

Discussion groups will be arranged at different times of the day depending on the availability of the participants. We will come to you or you can come to us. You may already be a member of a group that meets at a regular time each week. We could attend one of your meetings for a group discussion. You may have a group of friends who would prefer to meet at one person's house. We would be happy to join you and your friends, for the discussion. You may prefer to join other volunteers for a discussion at Age Concern Sheffield's city centre premises. Whatever suits the majority of the participants of the group will dictate the time and place of each discussion.

Personal qualities and abilities

If you would like to be involved in a discussion group, you will need to have experience and/or awareness of some of the issues facing older people such as: losing the ability to live independently, bereavement, isolation, reduced ability to maintain homes, poor physical or mental health, disability, loneliness, poverty or discrimination.

You may be:

- an older person yourself;

- a family member of an older person;
- a friend of an older person;
- a carer of an older person.

You will be someone who:

- shares our commitment to improving the lives of all vulnerable older people in Sheffield and in particular helping people to maintain or regain their independence;
- is not judgemental and respects the diversity of our current and potential service users;
- enjoys giving constructive feedback and can cope with differences of opinion;
- has no conflict of interest with being an ACS volunteer advisor;
- will maintain confidentiality and adhere to relevant Age Concern Sheffield policies (these will be fully explained to you).

Whatever your situation, if you have a contribution to make, we want to hear from you.