

Dementia Support Worker

Job Description

Role Title:	Dementia Support Worker
Reporting to:	Community Development Manager
Workplace:	The Balsam Centre
Hours:	13.00 – 17.00 weekly on a Thursday
Remuneration:	£30,000 pro rata (£15.60 p.h.)
Purpose of Role:	<p>The Dementia Support group, Memory Lane, was set up at the Balsam Centre in 2015.</p> <p>The aim of the group is to provide social connections and activities for people living with mild to moderate dementia. Activities are designed to stimulate memory, reminiscence and conversation. The group also provides a two-hour respite period for carers, who are also welcome to stay.</p> <p>People with more advanced dementia may be able to join the group if their care can be managed.</p>
Main Responsibilities and Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To plan, set up and run a weekly social and support group to benefit people with mild to moderate dementia, and their carers. • To accept people referred into the group through the Balsam Centre’s referral process, following assessment. • To liaise with carers/family to understand and agree the level of need for each participant; care, safety, travel arrangements etc. • To liaise with the CAT Bus to facilitate travel arrangements if required. • To liaise with partner organisations e.g. the Alzheimer’s Society and Methodist Homes Association to ensure appropriate referrals and inform different types of person-centred and individual support within the group setting. • To plan sessions creatively using seasonal and sensory activities. To order and manage resources for the group. • To manage and support volunteers in the group. • To ensure the health and safety of participants and volunteers whilst in the group, and on entering and exiting the building. • To maintain a register and individual records for those attending. • It is not the role of the Support Worker to provide personal care, but it may occasionally be necessary to change a pad.
Experience, Knowledge and Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the activities and purpose of the Balsam Centre. • To have employment, or lived experience, of caring for people with dementia. • To have group work experience with a similar client group e.g. dementia, elderly people with long term conditions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An understanding of the challenges which may be faced by carers of people with dementia.• A working knowledge of relevant external agencies and support structures.• Knowledge and experience of managing volunteers, or equivalent people skills and experience.• A knowledge of the limits and boundaries of the role.• An understanding of Adult Safeguarding principles and practice and how to address or report concerns.• Health and Safety knowledge and practice, including Risk Assessment.• Dementia specific training/qualifications including Dementia Friends training.• Food Hygiene qualification and understanding of hygiene principles and practice.• IT literacy.• Excellent communication and organisational skills.• Compassion, warmth and humour.• Ability to provide simple personal care.
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