

Compassionate Neighbour volunteer

Location:	In your local community
Time commitment:	Flexible to fit around you - a minimum of 1 hour a week

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care (RGP) vision

We will support people of all ages who are affected by a progressive life-limiting illness, and those who care for them, to live as well as possible by providing choice and ease of access to a wide range of palliative care and bereavement services across west Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Purpose of this role

Compassionate Neighbours provide social and emotional support and companionship to people who are experiencing loneliness or social isolation as a result of living with a life-limiting illness or bereavement.

After training, Compassionate Neighbours are matched with people based on location, interests and character, with the aim of creating genuine, mutually beneficial friendships.

Main tasks

Compassionate Neighbours can help others by:

- visiting regularly for a chat, offering friendship and a listening ear
- attending one of our Community Hubs/Compassionate Cafés
- helping them stay connected to the community
- visiting local places (such as a café, garden centre or shops)
- sharing an activity or hobby

What are we looking for?

- a desire to help others
- a good listener
- someone who is reliable, trustworthy and flexible
- someone who is compassionate and empathic, patient and caring

- an ability to understand and commit to the boundaries and guidance of the Compassionate Communities Coordinator and values of Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care
- must be at least 18 years old

Training and support

- there will be a named line manager who will provide ongoing support
- you will attend a one-day training course that will support you to understand the role
- there will be some mandatory training that you will need to complete at the start of your volunteering with us and then periodically afterwards as refresher training
- other training and development opportunities are available as you develop in the role

What you need to know

- you will complete a volunteer application form and we will ask for one reference from someone who knows you well
- you will need to complete an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for the adult workforce for this role.
- if you choose to drive your community member somewhere in your own vehicle, we will need to do an MOT check, an online driving licence check, and see your driving licence and a copy of your insurance at the start of your volunteering and then when they expire. We will also ask you to confirm that you have informed your insurance company that you may use your car for volunteering, and possibly carry portable oxygen.
- we welcome everyone and will make reasonable adjustments should they be needed
- we will pay reasonable expenses incurred, should you wish to claim them
- we rely on the commitment of our volunteers to support our services, however we understand that you may sometimes need to take a break from your volunteering. When you are ready to return, your line manager will meet with you to talk about the role and make sure it is still right for you, and may ask you to complete some refresher training.

For more information please contact the volunteering team on 01727 731020, volunteer@renniegrove.org or 01923 3303330, volunteers@peacehospicecare.org.uk