

# Befriending Volunteer

## Role description

Applicants for this role must be over 18. This role is part of our Feed the Birds befriending scheme. Volunteers are matched with prospective clients who have been referred to us and have been identified as being lonely or socially isolated. The clients are referred by a range of organisations and agencies across Shropshire. The role entails a weekly visit, ideally at fixed, agreed times for up to an hour. The clients are given a bird feeding station, feeder and food and the volunteer's role is to set it up for them and then to visit and fill the feeders, chat with the client about what they have seen. Clients are generally elderly and often lonely or socially isolated due to a physical or sensory impairment such as poor mobility or sight loss. Support for the volunteers is provided principally by the Feed the Birds project officer. Volunteers will be matched with a client living within reasonable walking, cycling, bus or driving distance, and travel expenses can be claimed. Volunteers will not be asked to handle money and do not carry out any additional tasks other than that of the Feed the Birds role.

## Commitment required:

- Half day training which will include a project overview as well as personal safety, listening skills, confidentiality and cultural awareness & discrimination, plus the practicalities of bird feeding. Coco trained volunteers can be fast-tracked; contact the Feed the Birds officer to find out more about this process.
- We operate local Volunteer Hubs around Shropshire and attendance for support and supervision is encouraged. These meetings take place throughout the year, and you will be linked into your local hub. All volunteers are encouraged to attend as they provide an important opportunity to share experience and raise any issues with peers and to monitor and check progress. We often invite a speaker or do an activity relevant to the project
- Two satisfactory references and a DBS check are required for this role.
- Feed the Birds volunteers will also be required to complete a half day Adult Safeguarding Awareness course before starting. This course can be done online or face to face.

Existing experience & qualities	Essential or desirable
Listening / empathic hearing / confidentiality	Essential
Interest in birds and bird feeding	Essential
Open minded / non judgemental	Essential
Dealing with vulnerable people	Desirable
Basic bird ID skills	Desirable
Skills development offered	

- Further training can be provided in specialist areas such as Dementia awareness, loneliness and depression in Older People etc...

## Support available

- The Project Officer is available for additional support or supervision in relation to the role and your client.

## Minimum time commitment needed

- One visit per week lasting up to an hour Monday to Friday, plus one-day training and attendance at supervision meetings.

### Other information

- You will be expected to comply with our Adult Safeguarding policy & procedures and our Volunteer Code of Conduct. Two satisfactory references and a Basic DBS check are part of the recruitment process.

### Contact

Diane Monether Feed the Birds project officer 07497 451838 [dianem@feedthebirds.org.uk](mailto:dianem@feedthebirds.org.uk)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTXlgz\\_HWXE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTXlgz_HWXE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUgJvG7htHE>



