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**Volunteering Opportunity: Safer Ageing Volunteer (Sussex)**

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| **Organisation** | Hourglass  |
| **About the organisation**  | Hourglass (formerly Action on Elder Abuse), the onlyUK-wide charity dedicated to calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people. We’re dedicated to promoting safer ageing and a fairer society for all older people; delivering a range of support services from prevention and early intervention, right through to direct support and recovery.We’re setting up an exciting new Community Hub project, to provide tailored and comprehensive advice and support around the abuse of older people and safer ageing. The Hub will have a community presence, as well as a regional reach across the whole of Sussex, and will be available to older people, their loved ones, and anyone else concerned about an older person. The Hub will act as a one-stop-shop, providing immediate advice and support, as well as services to proactively help keep older people safe from harm, abuse and exploitation. We’re therefore recruiting a team of volunteers to help us deliver frontline support to older people and others – can you help? |
| **Role title** | **Safer Ageing Volunteer** |
| **About the role** | **This role is key to the development and delivery of Hourglass’ Safer Ageing work. Safer Ageing Volunteers will perform various functions, such as group facilitators, providing a listening ear, Helpline volunteers, or advocates, to name a few. The role can reflect the skills and interests of the volunteer, while fitting within the aims of the work.** |
| **Location of position** | Sussex |
| **Responsible to**  | Project Coordinator (Sussex) |
| **Support from**  | Hourglass staff and volunteers |
| **Purpose of role** | To facilitate the development of strong and supportive relationships with and among older people through Hourglass’ services |
| **Description of tasks** | Safer Ageing Volunteers may carry out the following roles:* Promoting the work of Hourglass and raising awareness of issues around safer ageing and abuse of older people
* Hosting (or assisting with) interest/activity groups for older people
* Hosting (or assisting with) coffee mornings/social events
* Hosting information stands at events/venues
* Making regular Safer Ageing phone calls or visits to older people
* Acting as an advocate on behalf of an older person
* Providing information and advice via our Helpline, including casework support for those who require more in-depth support
* Other tasks may be undertaken in line with volunteer’s skills and interests, and the needs of the charity and those we serve
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| **Time commitment** | Flexible (from 1 hour per week) |
| **Skills and qualifications** | Please refer to Person Specification below. |
| **Training and support** | Full training and support will be given as appropriate, with further opportunities for learning and development. We will cover all out-of-pocket expenses, and arrange regular support meetings with other volunteers and staff. |
| **Benefits to the volunteer** | Our volunteers will join a dynamic organisation, helping us shape our work to empower older people to experience safer ageing. Benefits include:* access to a range of training courses and events
* one-to-one support, and support/networking with other volunteers
* building a network of friends and contacts in your local community
* give your time, talents and skills for the benefit of vulnerable older people & their families
* valuable experience of volunteering that you can add to your CV
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**Person Specification:**

We’re looking for people who:

* demonstrate commitment to Hourglass’s ethos of “Safer Ageing, Stopping Abuse”.
* demonstrate an understanding of the experiences of and issues affecting older people
* are reliable and able to commit to the agreed hours, as well as initial training
* display patience, sensitivity, and resilience
* can maintain confidentiality and deal appropriately with sensitive issues
* have the ability to listen patiently and constructively, and provide advice and guidance in a non-judgemental manner
* can recognise and work within personal and organisational boundaries
* are prepared to join the Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS), or are already a member.

Roles and objectives in the charity may change or develop and all volunteers are expected to be prepared to work flexibly in response to such changing needs. All volunteers are required to operate in accordance with the charity’s values, policies and procedures.

**Further information:**

Please contact Gail Shanahan, Project Co-ordinator, Hourglass:

Tel: 07508 823 975 E-mail: gailshanahan@wearehourglass.org

**Applying for this position:**

If you’d like to apply for this position, please complete and return the enclosed application form to:

Carralanne Bradley

Hourglass

PO Box 29244

Dunfermline, KY12 2EG

Or email completed applications to: Carralannebradley@wearehourglass.org