

MySight York - Volunteering Extra (Autumn 2020)

Welcome to MySight York's Autumn Volunteer Extra newsletter. I never thought that when I wrote the last newsletter I would still be working from my living room at a make-shift desk. Working at home rather than in the office with the rest of the team has been challenging and difficult but these last few months has been lovely in other ways. Apart from a garden view instead of a bus stop, I have seen how hard both volunteers and staff have worked to make sure clients continue to receive the support they need in extraordinary times. Our Home Connections project is ensuring clients get the equipment they need; the 'Keeping In Touch' project has meant that clients have received a regular phone call and our activity group volunteers have learnt new skills and helped run some activities virtually.

We also held our first 'Zoom' volunteer social which was a great way to catch up with each other and have some fun. I am organising some more zoom and also telephone socials. We have also organised some update sessions for anyone involved with 'Keeping in Touch', home visiting and fundraising . You're more than welcome to attend as many as you like. Dates are listed at the end of the newsletter.

Lets hope by the time of the next newsletter we will all be back in the office.

Catherine Bamford, Volunteer Manager



Keeping in Touch

Thank you to all our 'Keeping In Touch' volunteers who have made a massive difference to clients. We are currently carrying out our impact study into the project which will help decide how this might continue and what this service will look like in the future.

Fundraising, an update from Lizzy

After almost 4 months away, it's great to be back to be able to see all the work and successes that have been taking place amidst lockdown. I am amazed at the efforts the team have put in to organising and setting up new services such as the Keeping in Touch project and the Home Connections service, as well as how many people have come forward to volunteer! Although face-to-face fundraising isn't allowed volunteer fundraising has never been so critical, so on Monday 7th September from 10am-11am and Tuesday 8th September from 1pm-2pm, I will be hosting a Zoom call for fundraising volunteers old and new to come and learn about our plans for fundraising until we are able to host our events again. If you are unable to attend on these dates, or don't have access to Zoom, I will also be hosting a Conference Call on 14th September 10am-11am and 15th September 1pm-2pm. If you are interested in coming along, please email or phone me to book a place.

Before going on furlough, I signed us up with 'Donr', a text giving service which allows supporters to easily

donate their desired amount by texting MYSIGHT followed by the amount (e.g. MYSIGHT5 = £5) to 70490. From this, we have raised £64.86 and this amount continues to grow. Thank you if you have donated! In the meantime, if you have any ideas for Virtual Fundraising events, please drop me a line so we can discuss the planning of this! I hope you are all keeping safe at this time and I look forward to working with you all again soon.

Home Connections

Our Home Connections service is well and truly up and running. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who have been busy delivering equipment to clients. If you would like to know more about being involved with Home Connections please contact Deb Wheller.



Home Visiting Service

We are trying to get our home visiting service back up and running but as you can appreciate this is taking a while to achieve as there are lots of guidelines we need to follow to make sure we protect both volunteers and clients. Hopefully it won't be too long before volunteers can visit clients in their home.

Volunteer Socials

30th Sept (Wed) 11am-12, telephone
6th Oct, (Tues) 10-11am Zoom
30th Oct (Fri) 11am-12, telephone
5th Nov (Thurs) 2-3pm Zoom
Please contact Catherine to book a place.

Volunteer Update Sessions

Fundraising Update

7th Sept (Mon) 10-11am Zoom
8th Sept (Tues) 1-2pm Zoom
14th Sept (Mon) 10-11am - telephone
15th Sept (Tues) 1-2pm - telephone
Please contact Lizzy to book a place.

Keeping In Touch

10th Sept (Thur) 2-3pm telephone
16th Sept (Wed) 11am -12noon Zoom
Please contact Caroline to book a place.

Home Visiting Update

17th Sept (Thur), 2-3pm telephone
18th Sept (Fri) 11am-12noon Zoom
Please contact Catherine to book a place.

MySight York

live well with sight loss

General Volunteer Enquiries, Home Visiting Service & Keeping in Touch

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Team Administrator

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Fundraising

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Keeping In Touch / Activities

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Keeping in Touch Reporting

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