

An Introduction to
VOLUNTEERING AT CAMPHILL DEVON COMMUNITY

Essential information about being a Co-Worker



“Everlasting memories with people that I will never forget...” (from a recent volunteer)

About Camphill Devon Community

Camphill Devon provides accommodation and support to adults with a learning disability. Our purpose is to provide a supportive environment based on people's rights to choice and control in their own lives so that each individual can reach his or her potential.

People are supported to live within a range of six houses at Hapstead Village, which is in the South West of England, on the edge of Dartmoor National Park in Devon. The town of Buckfastleigh is 1.5 miles away, with larger towns of Newton Abbot and Totnes also close by, which have good national rail and coach links.

Camphill Devon is a registered charity.

Volunteering with Camphill Devon

Camphill Devon welcomes volunteers to become Co-Workers. Co-Workers live and work within one of the houses, alongside the People we Support. By living together, Co-Workers and the People we Support share their lives which helps shape and sustain social and respectful relationships in the home; people are made stronger by caring about others and knowing that others care about them (this is one of our values).

Co-Workers work as part of a team with permanent staff. This means that the Co-Worker will:

- Support providing personal care where needed, such as help with shaving, showering, bathing, toileting and laundry.
- Help with the running of the house, including cooking and cleaning.
- Be part of the 'sleep-in' cover (on rota), ensuring that if any of the People we Support require help during the night, this can be quickly and easily accessed.

Co-workers also support people when they go to activities in the local towns, such as college, swimming and social events. With trips to the cinema, theatre, night clubs and other activities in the area; and sometimes volunteers may also support people when going on their holidays. This is of course all subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

Camphill Devon also runs a number of rural craft workshops, including pottery, woodcraft and land-based work and we are always keen for volunteers to share their own skills, interests and hobbies with the people that live here.

Camphill Devon has up to 20 Co-Workers which means that in addition to experiencing work, life and culture of England our volunteers have the fulfilling experience of meeting other volunteers from all over the world.

Volunteering and supporting the people that live at Hapstead Village is a privilege, and we often hear that this creates many opportunities and experiences that people take away with them and remember fondly.

Co-Workers are not contracted, but in general terms they are recruited, inducted and supported as for the employee process. This includes completion of an application form, interviews, induction and appropriate on-going training including support to complete the Care Certificate.

Co-Workers are expected to support the People we Support for up to 40 hours per week and in return they are provided with free board and lodging and a weekly allowance of £40.

Co-Workers stay for 12 months and receive an annual leave allocation of 2.5 days for each completed per month, taken after they have been at Camphill Devon for 2 months.

Please note, while the Covid-19 pandemic continues, as part of a care community working with vulnerable people all staff and volunteers are expected to follow our vaccination policy.

Care homes are seen to be at high risk as close contact cannot be avoided. Good quality PPE is provided and our policy is that everyone must use it as appropriate. The vaccination programme is an extension of our policy on PPE and risk assessments show that vaccination is a key control measure in preventing the spread of the virus and helping to protect everyone at Camphill Devon Community.

It is our expectation that all staff and co-workers offered the vaccine will accept it.

Co-Workers need to apply for a visa and obtain various other documents which cost in the region of £2,000 Sterling. We cannot obtain the documents that you will need, but we are able to advise you which documents you will need and when to apply for them. Please do not go through an agency; Camphill Devon does not work with any intermediary agencies. In addition to funding your documents, you will also need to fund your own flights. This will all be explained to you if you interview successfully.

If you have the funds and the desire to be part of Camphill Devon Community, please get in touch with us directly.

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