

Disability Benefits volunteer



What will you do?

- complete an introduction to Citizens Advice and training for your role
- complete paper and online forms with clients, for example to apply for a disability benefit, or complete an application for money or equipment from a charity
- discuss a client's income and spending with them, and together drawing up a budget
- write a summary of the clients' problems and what action you've taken
- look out for problems' that are common, or are unfair, and write a short report about the problem or a letter to an elected official like an MP, AM or local councillor.

Some examples of what you could do:

- find the information online that explains how to apply for Personal Independence Payment and explain it to them
- help a client find and understand what steps they can take should their initial application be unsuccessful
- help a client understand what other benefits they could be entitled to



What's in it for you?

- make a real difference to people's lives
- gain in-depth knowledge about specific issues, such as benefits and disability
- build on valuable skills such as communication, questioning and listening, interpreting information and summarising
- increase your employability
- work with a range of different people, independently and in a team.
- have a positive impact in your community

And we'll reimburse expenses too.



What do you need to have?

You don't need specific qualifications or skills but you'll need to:

- be friendly and approachable
- be non-judgmental and respect views, values and cultures that are different to your own
- have good listening skills
- have excellent verbal and written communication skills
- have good IT skills
- be able to understand information and summarise it
- be willing to learn about and follow the Citizens Advice aims, principles and policies, including confidentiality and data protection
- be willing to undertake training in your role



How much time do you need to give?

Ideally we ask for 6 hours per week, which can be over one day or spread over two days, for at least 6 months.

We can be flexible so come and talk to us.



Valuing inclusion

Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds and we particularly welcome applications from disabled people, people with physical or mental health conditions, LGBT+ and non-binary people, and people from Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

If you are interested in becoming a Disability Benefits Volunteer and would like to discuss flexibility around location, time, 'what you will do' and how we can support you please contact us.



Contact details

Phone 01706 252012 or fill in a webform at

<https://carh.org.uk/index.php/contacts> and Lindsey will call you back for an informal chat about volunteering with Citizens Advice Rossendale & Hyndburn.