

I am interested – what next?

If you are interested in becoming a lay assessor, please contact our organisers (see local contact details).

We would be pleased to talk about the scheme in more detail and we will arrange to meet with you if you feel that you would like to join us.

The future development of lay assessors

Bristol may wish to extend the lay assessor scheme to other services they commission such as home care, learning disabilities and children's services. We also expect other local authorities within RSVP West Region's area to become interested in this scheme.

Should you be interested in helping us to organise or set up a future lay assessor scheme please contact us and we would be delighted to discuss the possibilities.

Local contact:

Volunteers receive all out of pocket expenses and excellent personal accident and third party insurance cover.

RSVP West

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RSVP (Retired and Senic Volunteer Programme) is a part of CSV, the UK volunteering charity. Friends of RSVP West Region, registered charity number: 1108785.

Part of



Charity number of 291222

Are you over 50 with time to spare and skills to share?

Volunteer Care Home Lay Assessors











Lay Assessors visit care homes to get to know the residents and the home and to assess the residents' quality of life. These visits are followed by a joint visit with the council's quality assurance staff. We work in partnership with Bristol City Council to support their monitoring and inspection of care homes.

Working with Bristol City Council

The council believes that its responsibility to monitor care homes benefits from the observations and views of a Lay Assessor who provides an outside, more independent view of how care homes are caring for their residents. The lay assessor concentrates on the quality of life of the residents as we believe this is very important

when trying to ensure that residents in care homes receive the best care possible.

They like us

Residents and the relatives of people living in care homes give us very positive feedback about our service, as do care home managers who think we get to know their home better by visiting several times.

Why is 'Quality of Life' in care homes important?

Care home residents are amongst the most vulnerable people in our society. A large number of older people end their days living in care homes. We have a responsibility for ensuring residents have a good quality of life and are treated with respect and dignity. How residents spend their days is crucial to their well being. Quality of life means having things to do which are enjoyable and interesting. Having good relationships with the people around them is crucial to their sense of well being and affects their mental and physical health.

Why should I become a lay assessor?

By helping to improve the lives of care home residents, you can make a real difference to the lives of older people who live in care homes and you will be taking on a role that is both interesting and rewarding.

Who are we looking for?

It will help if you have personal experience of care homes and are sensitive but objective. Organisational skills and being able to use email are also an advantage.