

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

RELEVANT PERSON'S REPRESENTATIVE

Location:	Local care homes to volunteer
When:	Ongoing
Commitment required:	Regular contact and ongoing support (1-2 hours per month face to face contact)

BACKGROUND

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards apply to people aged 18 or over who are being accommodated in a hospital or care home in order to receive care or treatment, where the Relevant Person is unable to make this decision for themselves because of an impairment or disturbance in the functioning of their mind or brain. If the Relevant Person is not free to leave the accommodation and is subject to continuous supervision and control they are considered to be deprived of liberty. This needs to be authorised by the Council and is known as a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Authorisation. Every person who is deprived of their liberty by the DoLS has to have a Representative. In many cases this is a family member. Where there is no one available to carry out this role the Council must appoint someone. It is anticipated that approximately 100 people will need a Volunteer Relevant Person's Representative (VRPR) each year. Each Relevant Person will need visiting monthly for either 1 or in some cases 2 hours and occasional short reports will be required following visits.

VRPR ROLE

- Provide regular contact and ongoing support to the person
- Help the person to voice their concerns about the deprivation of liberty by requesting a review from the Council using the Form for reviews which they will be provided with
- Assist the person to make a complaint to the Council by using the Council's complaints service
- Challenge any deprivation of liberty by assisting/supporting the person to request a review or make an application to the court of protection (further support is available from the Council with this)

WHO CAN BE A VRPR? TO BE ELIGIBLE YOU MUST BE:

- Over 18 years of age
- Able to keep contact with the relevant person
- Willing to be appointed
- Not financially interested in the hospital or care home where the relevant person is being deprived of their liberty, or be a relative of a person who has a financial interest
- Not employed by, or providing services to, the care home in which the relevant person is residing or employed by the hospital in which the relevant person is residing in a role that is, or could be, related to their treatment or care
- Not employed to work in the relevant person's supervisory body in a role that is, or could be, related to the relevant person's case

THE VRPR WILL:

- Be able to carry out the role in a professional way
- Be able to act independently and understand the requirements of the role
- Have satisfactory skills and experience to perform the role
- Have excellent communication skills
- Be able to provide simple, straightforward written reports and will be aware of when to raise concerns about adults experiencing or at risk of abuse
- Be able to support the Relevant Person to find out their views on their care and the restraints imposed on them and help them communicate their views to others
- Have a suitable DBS certificate (Shropshire RCC will carry out a check free of charge)
- Be able to provide 2 references
- Be able to attend training on: The Mental Capacity Act Awareness Level 1 (3 hours), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Awareness Level 1 (3 hours), Safeguarding Adult Awareness (3.5 hours)
- Be able to attend a one-to-one session with a Best Interests Assessor at Shropshire Council prior to starting volunteering
- Have ongoing support from Shropshire RCC