

Advance Care Planning Champion

Role Description

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Advance Care Planning Champion for Lambeth residents.

This is an exciting new role which will:

- **Help local people feel more comfortable** talking about their future treatment and care wishes, end-of-life care, and experiences of dying and death.
- **Support people to understand** how to plan for end-of-life treatment and care, or for a time when they may not be able to make or communicate their own decisions.
- **Raise awareness** of where people can access support for advance care planning within their own communities and wider networks, including a new local one-to-one support service.

Champions will organise or help to run awareness-raising activities such as information workshops and stalls at local events.

Coronavirus update: We're currently exploring other ways to carry out activities during the Covid-19 pandemic and we'd welcome your ideas.

The programme is run by Lambeth Advance Care Planning Consortium to promote opportunities for people to record their future treatment and care wishes. Alongside the awareness raising activities, we are also offering the new, free support service.

We are working across Lambeth's diverse communities, including with particular groups known to experience health inequalities:

- People with multiple long-term conditions
- People with dementia
- Informal / unpaid carers
- People with learning disabilities
- People from Lambeth's Portuguese-speaking communities.

What is involved

You do not need to have previous experience of volunteering or working in a similar role as we will offer training and ongoing support throughout your time as a Champion.

Time commitment is flexible but we do ask for a minimum contribution to the project of six months. Please see the 'time commitment' section for more details.

The following sections explain the values which underpin this role, and your responsibilities as a Champion.

Values

Person-centred

As a Champion, you will ensure that the person's wishes and interests are at the centre of all support provided. You will empower people to choose the ways in which they would like to document their wishes, and the support they require to do so ensuring you offer a supportive, judgement-free service.

Equal, inclusive and accessible

Champions will demonstrate a commitment to valuing the diverse experiences, strengths, needs and preferences of the people they support. You will help to create an environment which is free from any form of discrimination. All our events and materials aim to reach the widest range of individuals seeking support, and we will make all reasonable adjustments to promote inclusivity and equality of opportunity.

Supportive

Champions will be trained and supported and will be provided with opportunities to develop relevant expertise in their role. Everyone will demonstrate a commitment to being a proactive and supportive team member and treat each other with trust and respect while working together to achieve a common goal.

Skills and Personal Qualities

We are looking for individuals with the following skills, approach and personal qualities:

- Good listening and communication skills
- An empathic and non-judgemental manner
- Reliable
- Willingness to learn
- Understanding of confidentiality
- Awareness and understanding of the importance of boundaries
- Value diversity and equalities
- Commitment to the values detailed above

- Ability to travel across the borough
- Comfortable using email and online forms

Please note that this role is for adults (18+). DBS checks are not required.

Key responsibilities

General

- Attend an initial three hour training course and additional support as and when you need it. This is to ensure that you have the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to provide accurate information and have conversations around planning ahead.
- Ensure that you fully understand the project's safeguarding policy and procedure and who you should talk to if you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of anyone you talk to during awareness raising activities.

Awareness-raising activities

- In small teams, organise or help set up community information workshops or stalls - we are open to ideas you may have about awareness-raising events.
- At these sessions, talk to people individually or in small groups to raise awareness of why people should plan ahead, the tools they can use to do so (advance statements, advance decisions and lasting powers of attorney for health and welfare), and the support available to local people (the one-to-one support service and national information lines and websites)
- Facilitate activities such as the interactive 'Before I Die' wall of bucket list dreams and children's craft activities e.g. mask-making (all materials will be provided)
- Encourage participants to complete and return feedback forms.

Time commitment

We ask Champions to commit to participate in the programme for a minimum of six months, including:

- Attending the three-hour introductory training course
- Running/helping with a minimum of two three-hour community awareness raising sessions

Champions who undertake these activities as part of their paid work will need to secure agreement from their employer.

Volunteer expenses

We are able to reimburse expenses for volunteers to cover the cost of public transport and other requirements to enable you to fulfil this role, such as cover for caring responsibilities. **All expenses (with the exception of public transport) need to be agreed with your volunteer lead in advance. All expenses claims need to be supported with receipts - we are unable to process expenses claims without this supporting evidence.** This is to help us ensure fair access to the role.

How to apply

- To apply for a specific training date, please complete our short champion training registration form from the link on the project webpage: www.healthwatchlambeth.org.uk/lambethadvancecareplanningproject
- If there is no training date advertised, please email Verena at Compassion in Dying (contact details below) to express your interest, outlining why you are interested in the role and confirming that you are able to meet the time commitments. We will then let you know about the next available training session.

Once you have completed the training, if you are not already involved with a local organisation, we will link you to a host organisation to match your interests, for example Stockwell Partnership for Portuguese speakers and Carers Hub for volunteers who are also unpaid/informal carers.

Find out more

For further details about the Champion role, please contact Verena at Compassion in Dying, email: verena.hewat@compassionindying.org.uk (please note that Verena works part-time and will respond to messages as soon as she can).

To find out more about the project, visit: www.healthwatchlambeth.org.uk/lambethadvancecareplanningproject

About Lambeth's Advance Care Planning Consortium

The Lambeth Advance Care Planning Consortium is an open network of organisations working to promote advance care planning across the borough. The Consortium brings together a range of local and national organisations to:

- Help local communities feel more comfortable talking about their future care wishes, end-of-life care, and experiences of dying and death.
- Support people to understand how to plan for end-of-life treatment and care, or for a time when they may not be able to make or communicate their own decisions.
- Raise awareness of where people can access support for advance care planning within their own communities and wider networks.
- Drive a culture change to mainstream advance care planning across local health and care services.

We want to make advance care planning accessible for Lambeth's diverse communities and increase the numbers of people documenting their wishes.