

**Citizens Advice Volunteer Application form**

If you need this form in another format, please contact Lucy at Citizens Advice Mendip on: [volunteer@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk) or telephone 01749 345394

**Personal details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Surname:** |  |
| **First name:** |  |
| **Address and postcode:** |  |
| **Telephone number:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Preferred method of contact:** |  |

**Volunteer role, skills and experience**

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| 1. **Are you interested in any particular type of volunteer role(s)?**   Adviser, Telephone Adviser/Assessor, Assessor, Advice Assistant, Financial Capability, Trustee, Receptionist, Administrator, Marketing/PR, Fundraising.  [Please note that applicants must be 16 or over to undertake the Adviser role]  **The Adviser and Assessor roles involve completing a training programme, and following this a commitment at one of Citizen Advice Mendip’s office’s, in addition to ongoing training and development.** |
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| 1. **Describe any skills you have that would be useful for the role you’re**   **interested in:**  For example, talking to people face to face or on the phone, IT skills, helping people learn, speaking / writing in a language other than English, British Sign Language, good verbal / written communication skills, problem solving, co-ordinating teams, social media skills, etc. |
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| 1. **Is there anything you have done over the past few years that you would like to tell us about?**   For example, employment, work experience, volunteering, community activity  (involvement in tenants’ associations, school activities, support groups), caring for  children, other relatives or friends, classes, training courses etc. |
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| 1. **Why do you want to volunteer for Citizens Advice?**   **What do you hope to** **get from the experience?** |
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| 1. **What do you think are some of the main problems facing your community?** |
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**Availability**

It’s useful to know when you will be available to volunteer. Please indicate below the times when you are generally available:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Morning |  |  |  |  |  |
| Afternoon |  |  |  |  |  |

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| 1. **How many hours per week, or days per week would you like to volunteer for?**   Please note volunteer adviser role involves a weekly time commitment. |
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| 1. **Are there any times that you’re unlikely to be available, e.g. school holidays?** |
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| 1. **Is there anything else you would like to say about yourself?** |
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| 1. **Are there any adjustments we can make to assist you in your application and**   **/ or interview?**  This information will be treated as confidential. |
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| 1. **Is there any equipment or support that we can provide to help you carry out the volunteer role itself?**   This information will be treated as confidential. Please be assured that we will be supportive in discussing any adjustments with you at any stage of the recruitment and selection process. |
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**References**

Please give the names and addresses of two people, who know you in a work related, academic or professional capacity. For example, an employer, teacher or tutor, colleagues or ex-colleagues, or someone who knows you well (other than your family).

**Referee 1:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Address and postcode:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Contact telephone number:** |  |
| **In what capacity do they know you:** |  |

**Referee 2:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Address and postcode:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Contact telephone number:** |  |
| **In what capacity do they know you:** |  |

**Our policy on convictions**

We typically only carry out Standard, Enhanced and Enhanced with child and or adult barred list, Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks for roles working directly with clients in services targeted at vulnerable adults or children. Other roles such as conducting home visits, or providing immigration advice, and trustees who have authority to sign cheques or authorise invoices, or treasurers may require a Basic disclosure check.

Citizens Advice Mendip will ask about unspent convictions after a conditional volunteer role or employment offer. Having a criminal record is not in itself a barrier, and we will only take relevant convictions or sexual offences into account. If you are concerned about this and would like to discuss your individual circumstances further, please contact Ian Byworth on [ianb@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk](mailto:ianb@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk)

Our policy is in place to make sure ex-offenders are treated fairly. We consider each offence individually, looking at issues like risk to the client, how long ago it took place, the circumstances and whether they are relevant to the volunteer role. Anyone with a caution or conviction for a sexual offence against a child or vulnerable adult is considered unsuitable to volunteer.

**Entitlement to work or volunteer**

If you are from outside the EU / EEA, it’s important you check you are permitted to volunteer or carry out ‘unpaid work’ in addition to your main reason for entering the country, to avoid jeopardising your visa status.

If you cannot find the answer clearly on your immigration documentation, contact the UK Border Agency ([www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk](http://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk))

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| **Declaration**  All the information I have provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge |
| Signed: Date: |

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| **If you have given us any information about your health, disability or access requirements, under data protection law we need your explicit consent to hold or use that information.**  **We will only use it in order to allow us to make reasonable adjustments and/or to keep you safe, and it will be held securely.**  I give my consent for this information to be used by Citizens Advice Mendip |
| Signed:                                                               Date: |

**Please return this form to: volunteer@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk**

**How we will use your information**

The information you give us on this form will be used to help us decide whether to recruit you as a volunteer. It will only be seen by staff involved in the recruitment process, and will be stored securely. We will retain unsuccessful application forms for up to 1 year from the date the application form was received.   
  
If you are recruited we will retain your contact information in order to involve and support you. We will also collect additional information, such as next of kin details, and over time records of training, support meetings and where relevant, appraisals. Again, it will be kept securely, and only those people who need to see your information in order to involve you will have access to it.  
  
All use of volunteer information will be relevant to their involvement, and may include:

* Contacting volunteers when necessary
* Making changes to role, support or equipment to improve accessibility
* Monitoring statistical details of our volunteers
* Providing ongoing support to volunteers
* Monitoring the quality of advice given to clients
* Addressing problems or complaints

If you have any questions about the use of your data, please contact Ian Byworth Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Mendip, ianb@citizensadvicemendip.org.uk