

## Overseas Volunteers at Leonard Cheshire Disability

Marske Hall

**Leonard  
Cheshire  
Disability**



### What is my role?

At Leonard Cheshire Disability, we value the role our Overseas Volunteers have in our services throughout the United Kingdom. Due to the length of the placements for overseas volunteers (12 months) volunteers have the opportunity to acquire a range of skills, improve their English, enjoy the best of British culture and life, and develop fulfilling working relationships with our residents, staff and local volunteers which often develop into long-term friendships.

**Overseas volunteers** support our staff teams in providing an active, involving and stimulating environment for our residents. Through our overseas volunteers, disabled people in our care homes are able to access their local community services and social opportunities more easily and regularly, thus improving their independence and quality of life. This means that in their roles overseas volunteers are engaging in a wide range of activities both inside and outside the home.

**There is no typical day for volunteers** as our client's needs and interests determine what volunteers will be doing on a daily basis. Volunteers may be required to accompany residents on activity weekends and short holidays, as well as providing support to those residents who have regular work, education or volunteering commitments. While it is a lot of fun going out with residents, it is also very challenging as volunteers experience first-hand the issues faced by people with disabilities every day.

### What opportunities can I expect for training & skills development?

**Thorough training** on working with vulnerable adults is provided to all our volunteers. Leonard Cheshire Disability staff will help volunteers during the

induction process to understand each individual resident. Risk assessments ensure that volunteers are not asked to contribute outside of their capability or boundaries.

**Volunteers acquire** a range of knowledge, skills and experience including a greater understanding of the issues affecting disabled people. They gain improved interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with a wide range of people. There will also be an opportunity to learn about the wider activities of the charity, for example our campaigning/lobbying activities and fundraising events.

## About Marske Hall

**Marske Hall** is a fantastic, grand, 300 year old building. The home has a beautiful landscaped garden with a greenhouse and pond as well as seating areas, a patio and BBQ area. Marske Hall is in a small and beautiful seaside town - Marske-by-the-sea. Marske-by-the-sea has a range of shops, a local bank, beauty salons, post office, library, several pubs, local restaurants and cafes and all within walking distance from the home. There is also a long paved route into the neighbouring town of Redcar, or a scenic walk to Saltburn-by-the-sea.

**Marske Hall is a home with nursing care** providing a range of services for 30 adults with physical disabilities. Marske Hall residents make sure their home has a lively atmosphere, and on their request lots of daily activities are offered, including quizzes, games, movie nights and gardening. It is crucial that the home is a comfortable and friendly place for everyone, which is why Marske Hall has various communal areas including a large lounge, dining area, gymnasium, sensory room, conservatory, an atrium and a recreation hall. Besides the 30 ensuite rooms, there are also six additional homes within the grounds of the hall, purpose built to accommodate people with disabilities who wish to live more independently.

**The EVS volunteers at Marske Hall** are welcomed into and work within a driven and enabling team that will support, guide and train the volunteers throughout the placement. Marske Hall pride themselves in putting residents first and supporting everybody to be both independent and to participate in the local and home communities as they wish. Choice is an important part of the service we provide at Marske Hall and that's why residents have the option of contributing to everything from activities to the daily menu. The EVS volunteers' role is to support the residents' choices through planning and delivering the activity programme alongside the activity staff.

## Expectations & Accommodation

**Volunteers are expected** to comply with Leonard Cheshire policy & procedures & codes of conduct. Failure to comply with this could result in the programme being terminated. Behavior that causes concern as a result of excessive alcohol is not tolerated. The misuse of illegal substances will

not be tolerated and will result in instant dismissal. Volunteers are expected to behave in a socially responsible way, and in consideration to fellow volunteers and residents. Overnight guests are permissible only on a temporary basis, and with permission.

**The accommodation** is of a very high standard. The flat has two good sized bedrooms, a living area, kitchen, dining room and bathroom. The flat has internet access and is located within the home itself. Food can be provided by the kitchen at the home or volunteers can choose to receive additional money to cater for themselves.

**Volunteers must understand** that they are moving into 30 disabled persons home and they are expected to behave in a socially responsible way which includes no misuse of alcohol and appropriate clothing.

## Volunteer Profile

**The volunteers at Marske Hall** are outgoing, confident and have a desire to support and enable adults with a disability to reach their individual goals and life potential. Ideally they are interested in disability and the issues that people with disabilities are overcoming on a daily basis. Experience of working in this field is helpful but not essential as full training and support will be given. A desire to be part of a friendly, flexible and enabling team is essential as the EVS volunteers will become a key part of the team.

**The flexibility and diversity** that the EVS volunteers bring to the project allows greater community participation, a broader range of activities and above all time for one to one befriending relationships to form. The benefits from this to the Services users are immeasurable as the EVS volunteers enhance the existing service provision, bringing new and diverse activities and a greater opportunity for service users to access the community.

**The EVS volunteers will gain** experience of living abroad and all it requires in terms of adapting to a different culture, improving their English and learning more about England. They will also gain experience by working in a positive environment supporting adults with disabilities which will give an insight into the challenges people with disability face and broaden their perspective. The volunteers will also learn how to plan, organise and carry out activities and events, work in a close-knit team and lead hall projects.

## Activities

**Marske Hall has dedicated activity co-ordinators** who organise lots of different opportunities so that everybody can enjoy activities either in our home or in the local community. Since the residents are at the centre of all activities at Marske Hall, the residents often suggest places of interest that they wish to visit such as trips to the cinema, bowling, concerts, bingo and much more.

**Everybody at Marske Hall** is very involved in the community and we hold events at our home such as an annual Christmas fair, a summer fete, Gala Ball, fundraising events and birthday parties where members of the local community are invited to join in the fun. We also hold monthly 'pub night' with and entertainer and karaoke within the home for those residents who cannot access the community.

**The roles of the EVS volunteers** will be varied and are adaptable to meet both the residents need and the desires and drives of the participants. The EVS volunteers also support activities within the community such as bowling, cinema, theatre, shopping and other leisure activities. Within the home the current EVS volunteers have organized parties, fundraising events, themed days and evenings, supported existing activities and developed and created their own sessions. In addition to these activities the service users spend a great deal of their time accessing community based activities both for leisure, entertainment and education. Having EVS volunteers enables our service to offer a greater level of these activities, providing either group, or individual support to our residents.

**Current example:** The EVS volunteers have supported a resident to attend a college course at the local college on a weekly basis. They supported our customer to attend the library prior to the session to prepare, and then act as a classroom support during the session. This was a vital role as it enables the resident to access a community based course, working alongside other students.

**The previous EVS volunteers** supported a resident to complete the largest half marathon in the world, appearing on local and national television and in local press.

## Contact details

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