

LCiL
rights & choices

Volunteer Programme



CONTACT US

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Peer Support and Learning (PSL)

LCiL's Peer Support and Learning team organise peer support groups and information sessions focused on aspects of Self-Directed Support (SDS) and available social care options to disabled people and carers in Edinburgh and the Lothians.



Independent Living Service (ILS)

LCiL's Independent Living Service provides independent advice, information and ongoing support on all aspects of Self-Directed Support (SDS).



LCiL Services



Payroll and Financial Management

LCiL provide a payroll service (wages processing and administration) for disabled people who employ their own Personal Assistants (PAs).



Disability Advice and Information Service (DAIS)

The DAIS team provide independent disability advice and information and specialist welfare advice and support across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Who are the LCiL volunteers?

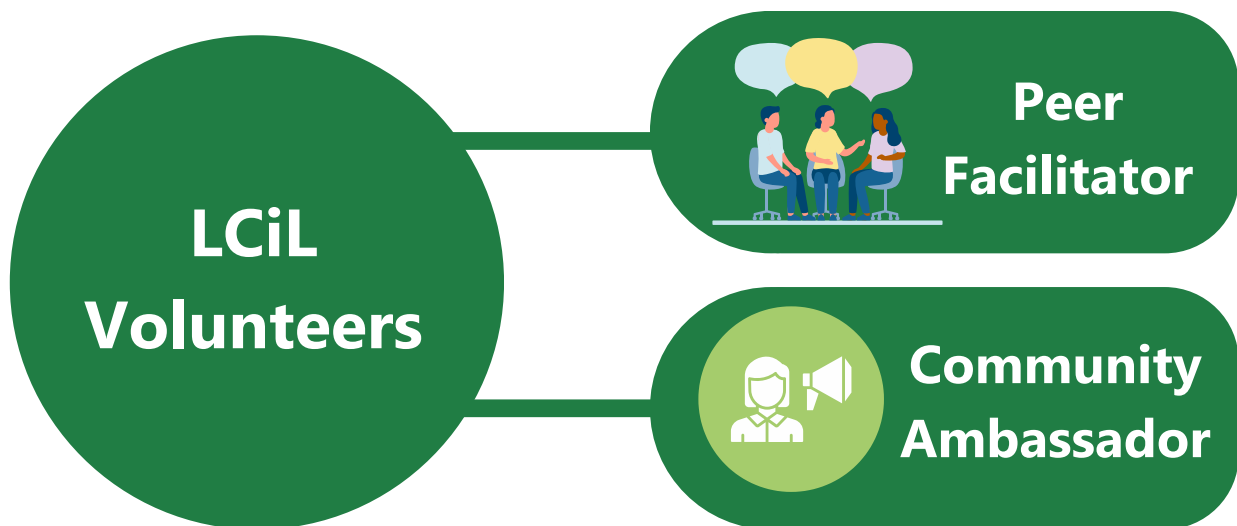
The volunteers are an integral part of LCiL. The programme was first launched in 2013, and has continued to grow and develop with the organisation.



The aim is to support and train a group of Disabled People, carers, and those with long term conditions to build knowledge and awareness of the Independent Living Movement and our organisation. They contribute to all areas of LCiL.

Volunteer Programme

The volunteer programme is split into two distinct roles: peer facilitator and community ambassador.



This separation allows for more focused and tailored training for each role, ensuring that volunteers can develop the skills and knowledge needed to impact different areas of the organisation. Volunteers can do both roles, after they have completed all appropriate training.

Peer Facilitator

Our Peer Support and Learning team facilitate Peer Support groups across Edinburgh and the Lothians. They are welcoming, relaxed, and informal sessions that bring people together to talk about aspects of SDS that matter to them.



The groups offer a safe space to share with others who have similar lived experiences. This is where the Peer Facilitators come in.

The role of a peer facilitator is to use their lived experience to support the growth of peer support groups, improving awareness and education about SDS. This involves attending peer support groups and workshops, where they apply their knowledge and experience of SDS to help build knowledge and strengthen peer support within the groups.



Peer facilitators receive training which is developed for LCiL and our volunteers with the Scottish Recovery Network, based on the Peer2Peer programme.

This training focusses on developing the Peer relationship, and understanding the value of our volunteers lived experience in creating more meaningful relationships at our peer support groups.

Community Ambassador

The role of a community ambassador is focused on community outreach and using the experience and knowledge of our volunteers to promote the causes of the Independent Living Movement on behalf of LCiL.



Community ambassadors will:

- Work in support of Disabled People, and carers, and their rights, within the community.
- Promote understanding and raise the profile of LCiL and its skills and services to stakeholders.
- Explain and promote person-led values, the social model of disability, and the Independent Living Movement
- Promoting the goals of LCiL in support of Disabled People, carers, and their rights

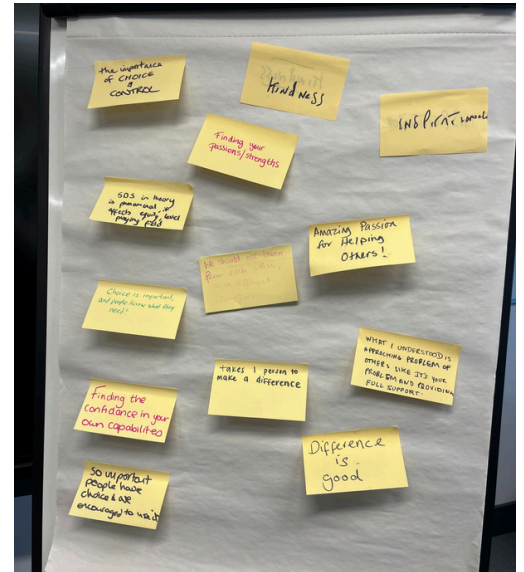


Past Volunteer Opportunities

Collaboration with Napier University

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Volunteers visited Napier University to speak with Master's in Social Work students, sharing their personal experiences with Self-Directed Support (SDS) and the assessment process. They took part in discussions about social care in Scotland, answering student questions, drawing on their own lived experiences.



Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2024

The LCiL Volunteers were recognised and awarded as a team for outstanding volunteering in Edinburgh at the annual Inspiring Volunteer awards.



Ministerial Visit

The Volunteers participated in media interviews with the then Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd.



Involvement in Staff Training

Over the years our volunteers have been involved in various training programs both for social care staff and social workers themselves. This provided an opportunity for our volunteers to provide valuable insight by hearing about their lived experience



Talk with Guide Dogs Staff about SDS

One of our volunteers spoke to Guide Dogs staff about how human support complements guide dogs and aids independent living.



They highlighted Self-Directed Support (SDS) and discussed PA employment challenges, emphasising the importance of resilience with direct payments. The event sparked valuable discussions.

Talk to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

Volunteers have previously shared their thoughts with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman about what self-directed support means to them, as well as their experiences of being assessed for SDS.



What our volunteers say about their role:

“

I love having the opportunity tell my story about how Self-Directed Support enables me to live my life.



“

The support from the team as a volunteer has been an integral part of myself achieving independence

“

The future while being a volunteer with LCIIL looks bright. I am looking forward to using my skills as a Community Ambassador



“

Hearing first hand from the volunteers about their personal experiences with Social Work the good and the bad was a privilege.



Interested in being a volunteer?



Contact us

PSL@lothiancil.org.uk

<https://www.lothiancil.org.uk/>
