



Volunteer Role Profile for Marine Lake Hoist Use

Introduction:

MARLENS (the charity who look after Clevedon Marine Lake) are committed to support disabled access for users and a hoist has been acquired to enable this. This will mean that people with a range of physical disabilities will be able to use the lake for the first time.

Volunteers will play a vital role without which we cannot offer this service and the aim is to build a small team.

Description:

Volunteers are required to support users by welcoming them, ensuring health & safety requirements are in place and operating the hoist. The role involves:

Undertaking training:

- Undertaking training in the use of the hoist (a one-off face-to-face training session followed refresher training)
- Undertaking training in manual handling and safeguarding
Reading the policy documents that have been prepared

NB: All training will be provided and is a pre-requisite

Liaising with carers and users/clients:

- Meeting and greeting users/carers and welcoming them to the Marine Lake
- Running through their pre-visit questionnaire and risk assessment with them (this will already have been reviewed to ensure we feel we can accommodate them safely)
- Showing them the Hive and the facilities available
- Whilst users are in the water, they are likely to need volunteers to keep an eye on their wheelchairs/other equipment (though personal belongings to be locked in the Hive)

Operating the Hoist:

- Running through pre-use checklist for the hoist
- Operating the hoist. Volunteers will be responsible for operating the controls of the hoist but also for working closely with the carers who will support the user whilst in the sling/chair
- Operating the hoist also requires setting it up (the hoist is housed in the boat shed and requires the use of a trolley to move it to one of two points where it then needs to be fixed)
- Cleaning the hoist and trolley after use

Volunteers will work in teams of two and allocate tasks between them.

What we're looking for:

Volunteers will need to be physically able to move the hoist on the trolley and set it up (supported with training – see above).

They will need to be welcoming to users and carers and be willing to take the time to read all information provided and then listen to users and clients to make sure we have understood.

Experience in health/caring professions would be useful but not essential as training will be given.

Likely time commitment and regularity will depend on the number of volunteers and popularity of the service. This is the first time we are able to offer the use of the hoist and we aim to start in a manageable way and build up. A minimum in principle time commitment is estimated at two half days a month (days to be scheduled based on availability and requests from users).

Volunteers will need to work within and sign the MARLENS' code of conduct.