

Volunteer “Advert”

Do you have any spare time?

Do you like helping people? Would you like to make someone’s day?

Would you like to get to meet people in your area?

Do you like driving? Or like problem-solving?

If you can answer yes to any to any of these questions, then we’d love to hear from you!

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) currently works with and supports 50 independent community car schemes, and they all have the common purpose of helping those in their community without transport.

These groups are all run by volunteers who offer their time to help those who cannot use conventional public transport either through mobility difficulties (i.e. due to age or disability), or those who are rurally isolated where public transport does not meet their needs.

However, these groups are desperate for more volunteers to come forward, as they are all struggling to meet current need and they really want to help more people

Here are a few points to consider in setting up your scheme:

- Think about the types of journeys your scheme would undertake, i.e. to the GP, chiropodist, hairdressers, shopping, coffee mornings, trips to hospital (non-emergency appointments for those who do not qualify for hospital transport)
- Think about where you could advertise for volunteers – initially might be worthwhile approaching existing community groups in the parish or area, including local churches/faith groups
- Write articles for parish newsletters
- Create a website, and/or promote group on social media
- Involve your local parish council(s), and councillors (including district and county councillors and MP, local dignitaries / celebrities, ask for their assistance to attract attention and publicise
- How much time volunteers can give to drive (n.b. volunteers typically give a morning, afternoon, day a week or as much or as little time as they like)
- Who will receive telephone requests (can be restricted to certain times of the day or week) and find available drivers

- Who will be the treasurer, to collate mileage claims and expenses then submit to CPCA

CPCA offers the following assistance to car schemes:

- Works closely with Care Network Cambridgeshire to provide advice and one-to-one guidance on setting up a scheme, including assisting with any paperwork or other issues
- We aim to keep all paperwork to a minimum to avoid unnecessary confusion
- We can reimburse expenses incurred by all volunteers involved, including a mileage rate, telephone calls made, stationery and postage
- We can help produce leaflets to promote your scheme within the area for display in local shops, parish, church or community noticeboards, etc
- Provide ongoing support to ensure your scheme works well and continues to meet the needs of the community
- Free Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers
- Offers additional insurance cover for all drivers, including Public Liability, Personal Accident, Employers Liability, Loss of No Claims Bonus and Excess Protection

For a chat on anything mentioned above, contact the Community Transport Officer at CPCA on 07874 861259 or Care Network Cambs on 01954 211919.