

## Selecting a Care Home Friends Champion

The Care Home Friends Champion is the key person in the success of a care home friends project. When selecting who will be the Champion for your project it may be helpful to consider the following.

### Main purpose of role

The Care Home Friends Champion is responsible for building a trusting relationship with the care home manager at the care home the church hopes to adopt. This is another key to the success of the project. Crucial to their role is the ability to recruit, vet and support volunteers. They will also be responsible for carrying out a simple annual evaluation of the project.

The Champion will be trained and supported in their role by Embracing Age staff and be given a Tool Kit with all the resources they need, along with access to online access to digital resources.

### Attributes of a Champion

- A compassionate heart for older people.
- The ability to inspire confidence. The care home manager needs to trust the Champion.
- Ideally they will have a pioneering spirit – they are breaking new ground and need to be able to persevere when faced with challenges.
- Time to volunteer – the initial setting up of the project will require more time than the ongoing running of it. On average the Champion will need to give 2-3 hours a week.
- Organisational skills and intermediate computer literacy – they need to plan a training session for volunteers and be able to access the online resources. Embracing Age staff will deliver the training.
- The ability to engage, support and come alongside volunteers.
- An understanding of the importance of prayer – we encourage each project to gather a small group of prayer supporters.

Some of these attributes are skills that can be taught and developed as the champion is trained.