

Shine Cancer Support – Local Network Leader Role



Vision

is that every adult in the UK diagnosed with cancer in their 20s, 30s or 40s can access the help and support that *they* need in a way that suits *their* lifestyle, and are a part of a confident, supportive and empowered community of young adults with cancer.

Mission

is to provide tailored information and peer support for anyone diagnosed with any cancer in their 20s, 30s or 40s through a range of activities including lunches and drinks evenings, beach walks, multi-day getaways, workshops, online networking, and mentoring.

What is a Shine local network?

Shine local networks exist to bring together men and women in their 20s, 30s and 40s who have experienced any type of cancer diagnosis

We currently run networks in ten locations across the UK and would like to reach more people in more areas.

These are non-traditional support groups that get groups of young adults together on a regular basis for activities such as drinks, dinners, beach walks and coffee mornings. These groups reach over 200 people per month.

The main aim of a Shine Cancer Support Network is to provide a place where younger adults with any type of cancer and at any stage of their diagnosis and/or treatment can meet others that understand what they are experiencing.

Local networks are managed by a team of 2-3 volunteers.

Am I qualified to be a network leader?

To be eligible for this position, you must be:

- a young adult aged 20-49, who has received a diagnosis of cancer
- at least one year post-diagnosis
- have attended at least one Shine event (local or national)
- In a place of peace and acceptance with your personal cancer experience;
- Be able to provide at least one reference from a professional involved in providing your cancer care/support.

Desired qualities:

- Passionate about helping others and a demonstrated commitment to volunteering;
- Outgoing, friendly, charismatic, and enthusiastic about building community;
- A positive attitude and a creative and optimistic approach to challenges;
- Empathetic, caring, and respectful;
- A self-starter who is able to work independently and effectively manage time without getting overwhelmed;
- Demonstrates integrity and trustworthiness;
- Not over-committed with other responsibilities (work, volunteer, family);

Our volunteers have a wide variety of education and professional backgrounds and we believe that your personal and life skills are more important than a qualification or a degree. Experience in the following areas may be beneficial, but are not necessary. Areas might include health promotion, psychology, social work, teaching, volunteer coordination, recreational or art therapy, health care, event planning or digital media.

Major responsibilities

Support: To coordinate and facilitate local activities and to serve as a liaison between local beneficiaries and Shine. This involves some administrative work (data entry, writing blogs, etc.), so being comfortable with word processing tools and Google mail would be an asset.

Awareness/Advocacy: To nurture existing relationships with health professionals and foster new ones, and to ensure local cancer centres, hospitals, and community-based cancer organisations know about Shine and are well-stocked with Shine resource materials.

Time commitment

We ask that all people interested in applying are confident that they can commit approximately five to eight hours per month.

We also arrange a one-day training event for new leaders and an annual get-together with other network leaders from across the UK. We communicate regularly through email and a private Facebook group.

This is a volunteer position and expenses (travel to meetings etc.) are covered.

Apply!

If you think you'd make a great Shine Network Leader and you meet the eligibility criteria, please complete an application form.

Leader statements

Here's what some of our other leaders had to say about their experiences:

"Shine's done so much for me, and I'm really glad to have the chance to do something in return. It's such a good feeling to help other Shinies, especially the newbies - I love seeing them switch from turning up nervously to chatting and laughing with the rest of the group within about ten minutes. As a network leader you also get to spend more time with Shine people at training days etc - which can only be a good thing!"

Fran – Shine Oxford

"Being a Shine network leader is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I personally have never felt so lonely when I had my own cancer diagnosis and finding Shine really helped me get in touch with real people who actually understood what I was going through. By becoming a local network leader I am able to offer the same much need support I received when I first came to my first meet up as well as get involved in some exciting fundraising projects too. "

Shell – Shine New Forest

"I consider myself enormously lucky to have benefited from the amazing work Shine does. It has enhanced my life in so many ways; taking me from a place of isolation and frustration to one where I have felt understood and supported. By becoming a Network Leader if I can help just one more person feel that way then I'll be super happy! The workload is minimal and the satisfaction enormous. I've met the most diverse, interesting, and downright awesome people many of whom have become close friends. I'd massively encourage anyone who thinks they might like to get involved not to hesitate, it'll be the best thing you've signed up for (including Netflix)."

Clare – Shine London