



**SAMARITANS**



## **Community Action Project**

Listening Volunteers & Support Volunteers

### **Community Action Partner**

Samaritans

**Aim:** Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide. They work to achieve this by making it their mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviours. They do this by:

- Being available 24 hours a day to provide emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.
- Reaching out to high risk groups and communities to reduce the risk of suicide; working in partnership with other organisations, agencies and experts and influencing public policy and raising awareness of the challenges of reducing suicide.

**Role:**

- Listening Volunteers – who would provide emotional support on the telephones to people experiencing feelings of distress or despair. No advice is offered, you simply listen without judging people. This role will always be with another Samaritan colleague present.
- Support Volunteers – according to skills and time available but could include publicity, fundraising or administration etc.

**Training:** There will be 5 weeks of initial training on Friday evenings and Sundays.

**Location:** To be confirmed with Community Partner.

**Times:** Listening volunteers are required to commit to one duty of approximately 3.5 hours per week at a time/day of the volunteer's choosing.

Times for the support volunteers will depend on the position taken.

**Other:** This project has accessibility. The selection process for both of the above positions is an application form, two referees, an interview and a half day selection event.

**Application:** All volunteers must be registered as Community Action volunteers. To do so, visit <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/services/volunteering/register.html>



**Royal Holloway**  
University of London