



## Access Champion – Voluntary

Role Description and Personal Qualities - 2024

**Role:** Access Champion – voluntary role

**Reporting To:** Policy and Campaigns Manager

**Hours:** No set expectation of hours to be committed

**Location:** Hybrid – meetings will take place in person and/or online

### **About Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL):**

Merton CIL is a user-led Disabled people's organisation based in the London Borough of Merton. We are run and controlled by and for Disabled people. We work hard to address the marginalisation of Disabled people and make a real difference in Merton and the wider community.

We support Disabled people across the full spectrum of impairment, including physical and sensory impairments, long-term health conditions, mental health issues, learning difficulties, and neurodiversity.

We want a society where Disabled people achieve full equality and inclusion. We work within the social model of disability and to an independence charter co-designed with Disabled people to ensure that we can influence key issues affecting our lives in many ways.

We provide a holistic service, with all work feeding into our three aims:

1. Promoting Independence and Inclusion
2. Identifying and Challenging Discrimination
3. Achieving Change Locally

You can find out more about Merton CIL by watching this short film:

<https://youtu.be/eHOgtyoavXI>

### **About our Access Champions Group**

We should all be able to access our community and travel safely, quickly, reliably and conveniently. However, inaccessible spaces, transport and services mean that some of us are stopped from doing this. Merton CIL's Access Champions are a small user-led group of local

Disabled people and supporters who aim to make Merton more accessible for all. The group uses their lived experiences and expertise to push for positive improvements and inclusion in conversations and decision making that impacts our lives.

### **Key Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Attend Access Champion meetings in person or online to power work to challenge discrimination by sharing ideas and experiences.
- Attend meetings or events with external organisations or bodies to share lived experience and influence positive change.
- Attend training and development sessions to build skills around building more accessible communities.
- Provide feedback on digital and print-based materials.
- Campaign collaboratively with fellow Access Champions to make Merton more accessible for all.

### **This role will suit someone who:**

- Is passionate about making change happen
- Has lived experience of facing barriers when accessing their community or transport
- Has an interest in helping others to understand and exercise their rights and have a voice
- Is keen to gain more knowledge around campaigning and influencing policy
- Is keen to increase connection, confidence, choice and control
- Has a personal commitment to supporting people with a range of impairments and people from a variety of ethnic and social groups

### **What is in it for you?**

- Membership of a friendly, person-centred and passionate group of local Disabled people.
- Opportunity to meet new people and make new connections.
- Increased transferable knowledge and skills.
- Improved communication skills and confidence.
- Inclusion in an annual gift voucher raffle to thank you for your donation of time and effort.
- Reimbursement of any out-of-pocket expenses, including travel expenses.
- Support around access needs, including transport options.

- Lunch allowance if you volunteer more than 4 hours per day (up to £5, with receipt required).
- Nomination to Merton's annual volunteer awards.

**DBS check may be required.**

**If you are interested in joining our Access Champions, please get in touch – [info@mertoncil.org.uk](mailto:info@mertoncil.org.uk) or 0203 397 3119.**