

Are you aged over 50 and looking for a new challenge?

At Citizens Advice Birmingham, it is important to us that our volunteers and staff reflect the diversity of the community we serve. While we welcome volunteers of all ages, we would particularly like to increase the number of volunteers we have who are over 50.

If you are 50+ and looking for a new challenge, we believe that you have skills and life experience that will make a positive contribution to our service and to the lives of our clients.

As a volunteer you will meet new people, utilise your existing skills and learn new ones. Find out why Geoff, Charmain and Alastair volunteer by reading their volunteer stories below.



Geoff is a volunteer adviser. This is why he volunteers with us....

"I started as a teacher and worked in local government as an education officer. I then worked in national government, as a college vice-principal, and finally as the national director of funding policy for colleges and school sixth-forms. I worked in these roles for around 38 years in total. After retiring I wanted to do something different from past work. I wanted the opportunity to use my insight and experience about the way government works to help people get what they need. I have now been volunteering for about four and a half years. I enjoy getting successful outcomes for our clients such as helping them to claim disability benefits that can make a real difference to their lives".



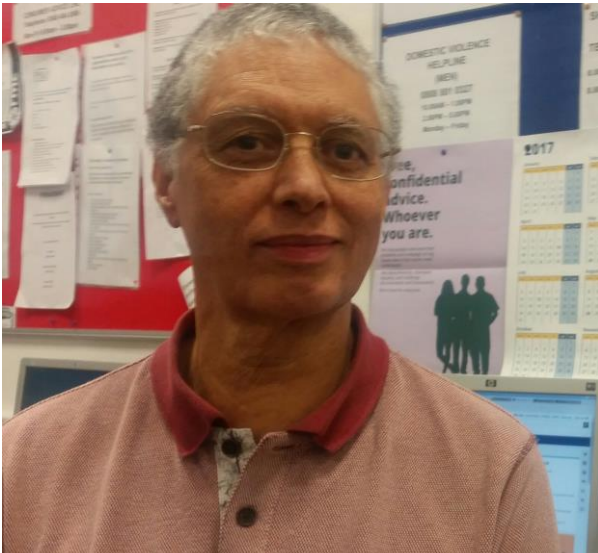
Charmaine is a volunteer adviser. This is why she volunteers with us....

"I came from a Civil Service background having worked with the probation service for almost 25 years. I volunteered with CAB as a student and after retiring, I felt the skills I have developed over the years would be useful in this environment. As a people's person, I enjoy meeting new people and helping where I can. Since becoming a volunteer I have discovered that people are often able to overcome the challenges they face but sometimes they just need some assistance along the way".



Alastair's volunteering journey

"For 35 years I taught Physics at the University of Birmingham. When I retired, I looked for voluntary work to occupy my spare time and found that Citizens Advice was a good fit for my skills and experience. I have been a volunteer for the past 10 years, I enjoy meeting the people that come to see us and to help them with their issues."



Steve's volunteering journey:

I worked as a Physics teacher as the Head of Science at a secondary school for 15 years. I wanted to volunteer at CAB so I could continue to help people in their lives. As an adviser I give them the information they need to assist with their issues. It has been extremely rewarding and I have now been here for 2 years.

We are keen to recognise the skills that older volunteers bring to our service. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can find a link to our application form on our website.

If you are interested in working directly with our clients we are always looking for volunteers to become advisers or to meet and greet our clients on reception.

If you prefer to work behind the scenes you might be interested in an administrative role where you will be helping staff and volunteers to provide our advice service. Alternatively, you may be able to work with our Social Policy team to influence change by reporting on the issues facing our clients. We will train and support you in any of the roles you choose.

We are ideally looking for volunteers who are available for 2 days per week, Monday to Friday between 9.30am to 4pm; however, we can provide some flexibility around this which we would be happy to discuss with you.

The work of volunteers like Geoff, Charmaine, Alastair and Steve make an enormous difference to the lives of local people. In the last year, our volunteers helped nearly 12,000 people with a wide variety of problems. For people not only wanting a new challenge in retirement, but also hoping to make a worthwhile contribution, volunteering with us is an excellent choice.

You can complete our volunteer application form by clicking on this link:

<http://www.bcabs.org.uk/page/view/apply-to-volunteer>