Welcome to Milton Keynes Hospital Radio …

Hospital Radio has been ‘On Air’ for over 50 years bringing a personalised entertainment experience to the bedside of hospital patients across the length and breadth of Great Britain.

Every day of the year, hundreds of volunteers man over 300 Hospital Radio stations covering more than 500 hospitals and other healthcare establishments, bringing a unique mix of music, information, sports and other features to their listeners.

The nature of Hospital Radio means that we can offer an intimate service to the patients, which is free and easy to access. By visiting patients on the wards we can build relationships directly with our listeners in a way that virtually no other radio station can. We can play requested music almost immediately and the patients can share anecdotes and memories of happy events that they associate with a song. Everyone has a tale to tell and Hospital Radio provides the opportunity for them to tell it.

Hospital Broadcasting started in Milton Keynes over 25 years ago and since the start we have broadcast music and cheer to the patients at Milton Keynes Hospital. We also provide up to date news, local information and sport, wrapped up in a schedule of ‘easy listening’ programmes that help the patients pass the time that they spend in the hospital.

Milton Keynes Hospital Radio is an independent Registered Charity. We do not receive any grant funding or support from the NHS, and rely on fundraising and donations to pay the bills and keep the service ‘on air’. All the people who run the station are volunteers.

Volunteering at Hospital Radio is a rewarding pass-time that offers a chance to do something different, meet new people and get involved in running a radio station. From patient visiting to presenting your own show, or just helping out with the running of the organisation, we have something to offer you.

What does a Hospital Radio volunteer do?

As a Hospital Radio volunteer, it will be your role to bring much-needed entertainment and friendship into the lives of patients. You will work in a team alongside other volunteers and will get the opportunity to gain experience in all aspects of running a radio station.

You will visit the wards to collect requests and messages from patients who may like a particular piece of music played. You will learn how to put a show together and will have the opportunity to participate in our Request Shows, alongside more experienced colleagues. Depending on your area of involvement, we will train you to use the studio equipment, enabling you to present your own shows.

We expect all our volunteers to attend General Meetings and to contribute to the general development of the station as well as getting involved in fund raising activities.

What are we looking for in a prospective Hospital Radio volunteer?

All volunteers must be over 18 years of age.

We’re looking for energy, passion, dedication, and anything else that you can bring to the station. Maybe you have great musical knowledge and want to develop a specialist music programme, have technical knowledge and can offer support in the studio or have fund-raising skills and ideas. Or you may enjoy meeting people and would just like to ward visit to collect requests. Whatever you have to offer, we will help you to utilise your skills for the ongoing development of the station.

A light and cheerful personality helps to brighten the day of the patients so you’ll need good interpersonal skills and to be able to talk to patients in a one to one situation with empathy and understanding. Our volunteers need to be able to work as part of a team. No previous experience or technical knowledge is required – we will train you. An interest in radio and/or music would be useful, but is not a necessity.

Above all we’re looking for commitment. Providing a consistently good service to the patients requires a lot of work and effort. So we’re looking for people who will be able to contribute regularly over a period of several months or years, who will turn up when they are expected and not just when they feel like it.

We operate an equal opportunities policy and welcome all applications, irrespective of age or disability, from any background.
So how do you join us?

Visit our website at www.mkhrs.org.uk and download an application form from the ‘Volunteers’ page. Post the form to us and we will take it from there. If you don’t have access to the website, please ring us or write to us and we will send you a form to complete.

We’ll invite you along to the Hospital for an informal New Members Induction session when we’ll outline what we do in more detail, answer any questions you may have and show you around the studio.

After that, if you still want to join us, we’ll slot you into one of our evening teams to get you experienced in how things operate and to complete your initial training.

The Small Print …

MKHR Volunteers must be over 18 years of age.

As our volunteers work within the Hospital environment they come into close contact with the patients and staff. We are governed by NHS rules in respect of who can volunteer and you will be required to complete forms to prove your identity and your right to work in the UK. A Criminal Records Bureau check will also be required before you will be allowed to work in the Hospital un-supervised.

The Hospital is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act so a full declaration of any past convictions etc will be required and we, and the Hospital authorities, reserve the right to refuse access to anyone on the basis of their previous record.

We expect the highest standards of behavior whilst volunteers are within the Hospital environment. All volunteers are expected to maintain patient dignity and confidentiality at all times and to behave in a correct and proper manner when dealing with Hospital staff, other volunteers and members of the public.

For further information on becoming a volunteer please contact us.

E-mail membership@mkhrs.org.uk

Phone us on 01908 24 35 55 (24 hour answer phone)

Write to us at the address on the front of this leaflet.