Application for Appointment to City of London Advisory Committees

Applicant: Susan Oster

Additional Information for Experience and Qualifications
What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of an Advisory Committee? (maximum 750 characters, attach an extra sheet if you need more space)

Kate Swaffer, a dementia advocate from Australia who has been actively engaged with the United Nations (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) has said, "The importance of the concept of dementia friendly communities fits with the needs of our human rights and disability rights to be recognised. In the same way as any other person with a disability, we should be supported to remain independent in our communities for as long as possible. For example, if a wheelchair ramp is provided without hassle, there is no reason why all organisations and environments should not also be designed to be dementia enabling."

Individuals like Kate have inspired me to listen more and to highlight these voices.

I am mindful that the level of participation required on this committee might be a barrier for many of our clients living with dementia (as is a time of 3pm for meetings) so I hope to be a 'conduit' of sorts. Hopefully, in the future, I could be replaced on this committee by a person living with dementia/ cognitive impairment. I would be interested in joining the committee in any capacity possible.

How will you support the work of an Advisory Committee? (maximum 750 characters, attach an extra sheet if you need more space)

I may also be able to recruit volunteers to support the work of the committee (e.g. online research) through our large and skilled volunteer base. I have been able to support a couple of research-focused action plan items from the CDIS (Priority 4) working group that I am part of. This also creates more awareness of accessibility issues within our community – and in the case of our volunteers, often among university-aged students who are going into health/medical and social service fields.