Volunteers

How do we get them involved?

How do we keep them involved?

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Presentation summary



- 1. LCC volunteer overview
- 2. Think about your volunteer role
- 3. Advertising and promoting
- 4. Attract the right people
- 5. Volunteer support
- 6. Partnership work to recruit local volunteers

Volunteering at Leicestershire County Council



Volunteer roles currently offered:

Children and Family Wellbeing Service: Youth Voice, CYCLe Youth Council, Mentors, Appropriate Adults, Stay and Play, Parent support, Family Hub volunteers, Community Panel, Independent Visitors, School governors

Environment & Transport: Environmental Action Volunteers, Rights of Way volunteers, Tree Wardens, Parish nature network

Communities & Wellbeing: Varied Museum volunteer roles, Event support volunteers, Home Library Service, Shared Reading Programme

Commercial services: Country Park Conservation volunteer groups in every Leicestershire Country Park, varied Century Theatre volunteer roles

Adult Learning: ESOL tutor support, Multiply support volunteers

Resilience: Flood Wardens, Emergency Centre Volunteers

Health and Safety: Volunteer Counsellor programme

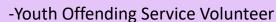
Volunteer Feedback

"I came to volunteer as part of my DoE award. I stayed on as a volunteer because I love it – it helps me stay fit, boosts my confidence... and looks great on my personal statement!" Really happy to get involved in a local history project that has meaning to me and makes me feel heard

- Culture Leicestershire volunteer

"People told me I would get more out of volunteering than I put in...I was sceptical, but they were right! Volunteering has helped give me a purpose and fit into my community" - Wellbeing café volunteer When I retired, I looked for something meaningful to do.
Someone told me about mentoring, I thought I would give it a try. I cannot tell you how rewarding it has been to see young people's lives transform because they have a positive role model. Is it a challenge? Yes! Is it worth it?

Absolutely!







Volunteers – how do we get them involved?



You definitely need volunteers and you are ready to recruit...

Audience – who?

Advertising – where?

Open minded, clear communication – why?

Social media – WHAT??



Volunteers – think about the role



Shortage of people volunteering long term = a nationwide issue Think about the following questions before you start:



- 1. Is your volunteer role clearly defined?
 - 2. Are you sure this role is needed?
- 3. How does your opportunity stand out?
- 4. Are you ready for new volunteers to begin?

Volunteers – how do we keep them in Communities



So you have a bunch of new volunteers? That's great!

How do you make sure they stick around?

People volunteer for different reasons:

- Retired (to continue to do something 'worthwhile')
- Starting career (to get work experience)
- Changing career (to get different work experience)
- Good for mental wellbeing (to feel good)
- Do something different (try a hobby or different social circle)
- Make a difference in my community (to give back)



Volunteers - support them and they will support you



A good volunteer opportunity needs:

- time
- resources
- potentially training or equipment
- support from either paid staff or other volunteers

Good volunteer management is a real skill. It needs:

- clear communication and support
- flexibility
- positive encouragement during tough times
- celebration during good times

The biggest myth about volunteering is that it is free



How can we help you?



If you are a Network member, you can:-

- Promote your volunteer opportunity here **Communities website**
- Get information and advice on <u>funding opportunities</u>
- Request example forms including role description; volunteer plan; reference request form; volunteer feedback form
- Attend a follow up session based on your feedback today

If your volunteer opportunity is with a community run group, make sure <u>First</u> <u>Contact Plus</u> are aware and can promote

Advertise your volunteer opportunity with our partner VAL