

Volunteers



How do we get them involved?

How do we keep them involved?

Jen Fielding, Policy Officer
for Volunteering



Leicestershire
Communities



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

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!"

- Young Parkrun volunteer



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!

-Youth Offending Service Volunteer



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



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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

The biggest myth
about volunteering is
that it is free

Good volunteer management is a real skill. It needs:

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



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 [funding opportunities](#)
- 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 [First Contact Plus](#) are aware and can promote

Advertise your volunteer opportunity with our partner [VAL](#)

