



# **VOLUNTEER** **Warrington**

Volunteering Strategy for Warrington  
2018 - 2021

# Vision

To inspire and encourage a strong and inclusive volunteering culture across Warrington

## Aims

Click on each aim to take you to dedicated resources

### [Expand access and reduce barriers to volunteering](#)

Enlarging, widening and diversifying the pool of volunteers and volunteering opportunities in Warrington, particularly for groups at risk of exclusion

### [Promote and recognise volunteering](#)

Recognising and valuing volunteers and volunteering, highlighting the benefits that volunteering can make to all aspects of Warrington life and work.

### [Provide excellent volunteering opportunities](#)

Improve the volunteering experience for both the volunteer and organisation. Enabling an environment in which volunteering can have maximum economic and social impact.



“ I have been helping out in a primary school supporting children to achieve their full potential. I love to be busy I wouldn't have it any other way..... I've made new friends and grown in confidence, volunteering has turned my life around. ”



**Volunteering is any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives.**

*Definition from NCVO – National Council for Voluntary Organisations*

This can include formal activity undertaken through public, private and voluntary organisations as well as informal community participation and social action. Volunteering is about choice, everyone has the right to freely volunteer and contribute to society, volunteering should also provide a mutual benefit to an individual volunteer and the community.

Understanding Warrington's current volunteering activity will be crucial in achieving the **VOLUNTEER Warrington** vision.

This refreshed approach will provide a framework from which organisations from all sectors can develop their own volunteer action plans and policies to suit their specific areas of work. **VOLUNTEER Warrington** will ensure that the wealth of volunteering is recognised, celebrated and strengthened and that volunteers representing the diversity of our communities can be involved in every sphere of daily life.



# **VOLUNTEER** **Warrington** **PROMISE**

**A simple way for organisations to demonstrate how they contribute to a diverse and thriving voluntary sector.**

## **Why sign up?**

**People volunteering for your organisation are giving their time, talents, experience and energy. You can do so much more for your beneficiaries and members by harnessing this support.**

**Being creative and developing new opportunities can help to recruit untapped potential, skills and talent to help meet your aims.**

**Through the PROMISE, you are making a commitment to support borough wide shared objectives that will benefit local communities and residents to help make Warrington a better place to live and work.**

**Those signing up the PROMISE will join a wider network of organisations dedicated to promoting, supporting and developing volunteering.**

**Through a few simple steps tailored to your organisation, you can share examples of good practice and develop your volunteering offer through the seven themes.**

# PROMISE

**The seven themes of the PROMISE are:**

## **Promote**

Sharing the power of volunteering and spreading the word throughout the community.

## **Recognise**

Celebrating the contribution that volunteers make to your organisation and the community.

## **Organise**

Developing an effective and well managed programme suitable for volunteers and your organisation's mission.

## **Mutually beneficial**

Ensuring that both your volunteers and your organisation get something from volunteering.

## **Inclusive**

Offering a programme that is open to a wide range of people and represents all those in our community.

## **Sharing good practice**

Networking and sharing ideas and contributing to furthering Warrington's voluntary sector.

## **Excellent opportunities**

Creating your volunteering offer so it is engaging and meaningful and provides quality volunteer roles

# In Warrington...



It is estimated that

**44,245**  
**PEOPLE**

are involved with  
formal and informal volunteering activities



**73%**

are involved in delivering services

**ON AVERAGE...**

**151,030**  
**HOURS**

are given to good  
causes each week



Organisations  
benefit from **85**

**HOURS**

per week from  
volunteers  
(that's 3 hours a week  
per volunteer!)

...this all equates to

**7.9 MILLION HOURS** per year!

By giving time and skills, **volunteers contribute**

**£88, 685, 963**



**WOW!**

to the local economy every year.

**That's amazing!**

**Warrington has a lot to shout about with over **1350** community and voluntary organisations involving thousands of volunteers across a wide range of activities. People across Warrington choose to volunteer to:**

- Support other people when they're vulnerable
- Provide activities for our children and young people
- Run sports and arts activities
- Govern charities and community groups
- Deliver advice and information services
- Raise funds for charity
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Work to promote community safety and justice
- Promote animal welfare
- Develop other people's skills and support learning
- Provide mutual support, health, housing and social care services
- Undertake collective action/representation
- Help organise and deliver events
- Campaign for change

Some people may find barriers to volunteering due to everyday challenges like a lack of time caused by work or family commitments. Others experience personal difficulties which can affect their physical or mental health. There are many different ways to engage and encourage people to volunteer to suit different lifestyles and needs, such as one off opportunities, flexible hours and additional training or support.

**“ Bitesize volunteering works for me, as it lets me make a contribution even when I'm at my busiest ”**





# Why is volunteering important ?

## Volunteering provides an opportunity to:

- Give something back to an organisation that has impacted on a person's life, either directly or indirectly
- Make a difference to the lives of others
- Help the environment
- Help others less fortunate or without a voice
- Feel valued and part of a team
- Spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle
- Gain confidence and self-esteem

## Volunteering can be a way of:

- Gaining new skills, knowledge and experience
- Developing existing skills and knowledge
- Enhancing a CV
- Improving employment prospects
- Gaining an accreditation
- Using professional skills and knowledge to benefit others (usually described as pro-bono)

## Volunteering appeals because of its social benefits:

- Meeting new people and making new friends
- A chance to socialise
- Getting to know the local community



**“ Volunteering makes me get up in the morning and gives me a reason to get out of the house .... I’ve met new people and made new friends, I feel so much more valued and part of something”**

**“My volunteering experience will have a major impact on my future goals and career prospects”**





**VOLUNTEER Warrington** will encourage residents to take more personal responsibility and get involved in volunteering helping to contribute to Warrington being an even better place to work, live and visit.

Taking responsibility is not about replacing paid employees but finding new solutions to enable people to contribute to their community and the services that matter to them. There is untapped potential within our communities that should not be ignored. It is essential that we nurture and release the capability, capacity and assets that exist within our communities.

“I first started volunteering in 2012 I didn't realise at the time that was just the start of the journey for me. I was amazed at the sheer number of people in so many different voluntary organisations that gave up some of their time and expertise to help others and they inspired me to do more. It's a great way of contributing and putting something back into the local community and if everyone did just a little bit then we'd all be living in a much, much better place”.

**Paul Taylor** – Taylor Business Park



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[www.warringtonva.org.uk/volunteerwarrington](http://www.warringtonva.org.uk/volunteerwarrington)



**Did you know**

**13,730**

**people are involved in  
volunteering across  
Warrington every week!**

**By contributing to VOLUNTEER Warrington you can  
inspire thousands more volunteers by 2021**