

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Lead: John Warren, Volunteer Centre Lutterworth

Since the update Volunteer Centre Lutterworth has led on a Leicestershire and Rutland funding application to 'V' with all Voluntary Action Centres/Volunteer Centres and Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport as partners. The bid is for approx. 600k over 3 years for a team of 5 to support younger people volunteering and develop new opportunities for them. The experience gained from the LAA supported work has helped inform the bid. An online and paper questionnaire was also used to ask for suggestions and priorities from young people. The young people were contacted through Volunteer Centres, youth groups and schools and 194 young people took part – a summary is attached.

I have been invited to and spoken at

- Upper School in Melton Mowbray to talk about volunteering.
- The Harborough Compact event with a theme of positive partnership where I used the relationship with Lutterworth College and working with younger people.
- The local group of schools regular heads meetings and briefed them about voluntary project with Lutterworth College (5 are already participating) and more may want to join in.

Volunteering is now an entitlement for all students at Lutterworth College and is built into curriculum.

ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE

Lead: Kerrie Fletcher, Network Co-ordinator

Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department now have a Volunteer Co-ordinator in post to develop volunteering in the department, which comprises Environment & Heritage (museums, archives, arts, environment and country parks), Libraries and Information, Regulatory and Commercial and Support Services.

The Co-ordinator previously worked in the Volunteer Centre network and is liaising closely with the network. Her role includes developing protocols and procedures across the whole department to ensure that volunteers are involved and managed effectively; and the development of new volunteering opportunities within the different Services.

The work includes guidelines on developing volunteer roles, a handbook for volunteers, volunteer recruitment processes and the delivery of volunteer management training for frontline staff who work with volunteers. A second workshop on Working With Volunteers will be delivered in January with more planned during 2008, using the training pack and good practice guide developed by the Volunteer Centre network.

MARKET TOWNS

Lead: Mary Hall, Voluntary Action Hinckley & Bosworth

Positives:

- Final report with accompanying recommendations produced for volunteering and economic block steering group including a recommendation that all future LAA work is 'volunteer proofed'
- Recruitment and support of over 40 volunteers for the East Midlands Food Festival including support for festival organisers and County Council on supporting, training and supervising volunteers.
- Increased links with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) with a view to creating a volunteering programme/package across the whole of the council. Could be used as a possible pilot throughout the county.
- Increased links with Lutterworth Town Centre Manager – one to one training provided.

Not so positives

- Ongoing difficulties in engaging town centre managers including their line manager
- Certain issues around support of volunteers at the food festival made it clear that there is a need for increased understanding/recognition around supporting and involving volunteers

Plans for future

- Try to engage on a one to one basis with town centre managers with a view to putting on training directly
- Have feedback meeting with Food festival organisers to discuss issues with a view to trying to get them to contract future volunteer involvement out to the network.
- Set up volunteer involvement package at HBBC – training all staff, increasing knowledge, awareness and support etc
- Using the HBBC experience to roll out across the county
- Having discussions with county council to see if there is a need to recruit an 'Events Volunteer Co-ordinator'.

OLDER PEOPLE

Lead: Mo Fowler, Voluntary Action Blaby District

In the July to September 2007 quarter the following statistics were gathered from the 7 Centres that provide befriending services in the County: Blaby District; South Leicestershire; Melton; Shepshed; Oadby & Wigston; Lutterworth; Syston.

New clients (aged 60 or over) referred	=	30
New befriending partnerships created	=	14
New volunteer befrienders recruited	=	17
Clients (aged 60 or over) waiting	=	80

This brings the half year total for new befriending partnerships formed to 36 which is well on the way to the yearly target of 50.

Other work achieved through the LAA for Older People agenda is as follows:

The Over 50's Feel Good Fair, took place on 4th September at The Pavilion, Huncote. This was an information and activity based event to celebrate Older People's month, organised as a partnership between Voluntary Action Blaby District, Active Together Blaby and Leicestershire Nutrition and Dietetic Service. Over 70 people attended from throughout Blaby District and surrounding areas. Attendees were offered various 'taster' sport sessions including tai chi, curling, boccia, gentle aerobics, seated exercise and badminton. Daytime tai chi sessions are now taking place at The Pavilion and it is hoped that gentle aerobics sessions will follow shortly. Health MOTs proved very popular with a constant demand for waist, weight, height and blood pressure checks. The Hinckley branch of Diabetes UK also attended with information leaflets and booklets. The information displays included volunteering with particular emphasis on keeping people active, pensions and benefits, fire and home safety from the fire and police services, libraries, the handyman scheme and Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland's Signal bus.

A befriending mini-conference, organised and chaired by Voluntary Action Blaby District took place on 24th September attended by 16 people in total, a mixture of Voluntary Action/Volunteer Centre staff and external organisations i.e. Age Concern, Mind, Royal British Legion. There was a great deal of shared information and discussion around good working practices and how the group could move forward as an e-network with any future meetings arranged purely on a needs basis. Some positive networking took place and issues were discussed particularly around the current referral systems, numbers of people on waiting lists and the difficulties in recruiting suitable volunteer befrienders which will undoubtedly lead to further action by the network.

An LAA consultation event took place at Markfield in September where I gave a short presentation on behalf of Voluntary Action Blaby District and the LeicesterShire Volunteer Centres Network on the work achieved in respect of the LAA theme for Older People. I also participated in the event as a delegate and fed in to the next Leicestershire LAA via workshops facilitated by Sheila Rochester, Assistant Director Adult Services, and Pat Fraser, Planning and Commissioning, Leicestershire County Council. This resulted in a follow up meeting with representatives from Individual Budgets and the creation and submission to the LAA (Older People) Steering Group of three draft proposals to try and ensure the inclusion of volunteering in the next phase of the LAA.

SPORT

Lead: Michelle Skinner, Voluntary Action Leicester

Initial research has identified a need to facilitate closer working relations between the volunteering and sports sector infrastructure.

We have been working closely with Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport to further this agenda; A working group of 5 Volunteer Centre/Voluntary Action and 3 senior Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland staff met to identified a framework for the development of volunteering for sport in Leicestershire.

This framework will improve the support available for people wanting to volunteer in sport as well as for clubs and sports groups working with volunteers. We are yet to work out the detail and resourcing of the development plan, however the main priority areas were:

- Funding & resource
- Marketing & communications
- Relationship with National Governing Bodies
- Strategic vision and future

We have met with national strategic leads in volunteering in sport and are currently discussing the possibility of piloting a project of national significance here in Leicestershire.

As a result of our work in this area Volunteer Centres are making links with local and sub regional sports personnel.

Feedback from one Voluntary Action Staff member:

“I have been having some fun since the last volunteering in sport meeting and have made all sorts of contacts here in Hinckley and at the county - I have the RFU list of Volunteer Coordinators for one thing! So the meeting has had very successful outcomes so far. We went to the Stepping into Sport youth volunteering event last week and we had a good meeting with the local Sports Development Officer too. There is some planning going on locally around sports development so we have been invited to that so things are moving along nicely”

Progress report to Volunteer Centre Network Steering Group, October 2007

Date	Activity	Outcome/Purpose
15/10/07	Meeting with VE & NAVCA to discuss local work around Volunteering in sport & to explore funding for a pilot (countywide) project	To be reported
15/10/07	Forwarded Volunteering Leicestershire research on volunteering in sport to inform Andy Reed (MP) thinking as he is chairing a volunteering in sport meeting in the House of Commons next week	Raising profile nationally
12/10/07	LRS committee meeting – presented paper on community sport including volunteering. Presented in front of Jenny Price CEO of Sport England & asked her view on Volunteering in Sport	Public declaration from CEO Sport England that Volunteering in Sport is important and needs to be high profile Invite to meet & discuss volunteering in sport with NGB's

		Identified importance of link between VC's with LSA's
11/10/07	Circulated this is Leicestershire consultation draft (evidence base) & LAA Safer Stronger Communities timescales to Kerrie/LAA steering group	To discuss VC/VCA involvement at LAA steering group meeting on 16/10/07
11/10/07	Invited to attend meeting with Becky Nixon & LRS to discuss LRS role in infrastructure consortium and strategic plan	Linking up agendas
08/10/07	Attended Healthier Communities working group	Informal networking and introduction to people and process for LAA reporting as well as development of new LAA
26/09/07	Community sport meeting with Caron Walpole from LRS	Discuss consultation event to decipher partners involvement in community sport (to include volunteering)
24/09/07	Meeting with John Byrne (CEO LRS) to discuss volunteering in sport / opportunities and challenges	Agreed joint planning day (LRS & VC's) to agree / clarify way forward as lots of opportunities, many lines of communication
	VE made contact wanting to use our Volunteering in Sport presentation at a national conference	National profile & interest
17/09/07	Meeting with Kerrie & Ian Knott (LRS) re volunteering in sport element to V bid and joint working / cross over	Established support and potential resource (i.e. desk space) from LRS for county & city V bids
11/09/07	Presented findings of innovations (capacity builders funded) volunteering in sport research to Leicestershire Volunteer Centres Network meeting. Identified personnel to form a working group to take agenda forward	'Buy in' and support from all county (VC) partners for sub regional work to develop volunteering in sport Accountability
17/10/07	Joint planning meeting with LRS (working group of 5 VC/VA staff & 3 LRS staff)	Beginnings of an action plan for improving infrastructure for volunteering in sport Identify who else we need to include in discussion / action planning
After planning meeting	Contact LSEP to discuss sub regional involvement in 2012 (volunteering)	Link VC's work to sub regional and regional 2012 plans
26/11/07	Healthier Communities group meeting	
TBC	Healthier communities working groups (physical activity) -meeting to determine detail under each priority heading within block	Chance to influence new LAA, to ensure representation of volunteering against volunteering in sport but also potentially other areas within block (dependant on discussion at next steering group meeting)
1/11/07	LAA sustainable communities briefing	Greater understanding of LAA process & how to influence new LAA networking
9/01/08	Invited to talk at National Governing Body (NGB) forum in Jan about volunteering	Extend reach of services for volunteer involving organisations, map and develop new opportunities