
REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	24th NOVEMBER 2016	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS SMITH chris.smith@south-derbys.gov.uk 01283 595 924	DOC:
SUBJECT:	VOLUNTEERING POLICY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members approve the Council Volunteer Policy.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To obtain members approval for the Council Volunteer Policy.

3.0 Detail

3.1 In recent years the Council has seen an increase in the amount of public events and community projects delivered across the district. Many departments are enlisting the help of volunteers to help with the running of these initiatives. Liberation Day, Dream Scheme, National Play Day, Get Active in the Forest, the Walking Festival, Village Games are just a few of the events which strongly rely on volunteers.

3.2 Currently there is no framework in place to ensure that we are offering a consistent approach to recruiting, managing and training volunteers across the council. This policy will help ensure that each volunteer will: receive an induction, adequate information about the role they are required to do, checked so the role is appropriate to them and is well looked after and have an enjoyable experience.

3.3 The Council currently involved volunteers through a wide range of volunteering opportunities across Council services. The Volunteer Policy attached as Appendix No.1 to the report confirms the Council's commitment to volunteers and established the values and standards of the Council in its involvement with them.

3.4 The Policy had been subject to consultation with the Council departments that use volunteers and South Derbyshire CVS. It was recommended that in order to ensure compliance with national guidelines and to better understand the climate of volunteering across services, a common approach to volunteering should be implemented across the Council.

- 3.5 There are a wide variety of roles available to volunteers which differ from service to service but by working closely with South Derbyshire CVS the Council we will seek to create more volunteering opportunities where possible.
- 3.6 In order to monitor the delivery of the policy, a baseline assessment will be undertaken to establish the number of volunteers and the types of activity they currently engage with. This will be updated by each department, creating a pool of volunteers that may be approached to assist with future events.
- 3.7 Alongside the policy a development plan has been produced which will ensure the policy is delivered. This will include the production of standard documentation (application procedure, induction pack), relevant training is provided, a webpage is developed and promotional and celebration events are held. The development plan is provided as Appendix No.2
- 3.8 A future development will be a Community Champions scheme which will recognise key people who volunteer in their communities. These individuals will be identified and approached to become 'Community Champions'. They will build on their existing role in the community and help us promote activities and events and be consulted to identify needs within their communities. This will be subject to a future report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There will be a small amount of finance required, to provide training courses, DBS checks and future promotion and celebration events but will be absorbed within existing budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Within the Corporate Plan there are two aims that developing and standardising volunteering across the Council will impact on: 'Connect with our communities, helping them feel safe and secure' and 'Increase the levels of participation in sport, health, environmental, physical activities'. There are two specific projects within the Corporate Plan around volunteering: 'Develop a community champion scheme through volunteer development' and 'Support the community and voluntary sector to enable people to maintain living independently'.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 This Policy will help develop a workforce of volunteers which will benefit the South Derbyshire community.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Volunteer Policy
Appendix 2 – Volunteer Development Plan 2016-18