



About our volunteering work



This report tells you all the work we
have done last year

April 2020 to March 2021

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About Volunteering Matters



**Voluntary
organisation**

Volunteering Matters is a voluntary organisation.



We work with volunteers. They give their time, skills and experience to support other people in their local communities.



We train and support our volunteers to help:

- support people to do what they want with their lives



- people feel less lonely



- people have better health and wellbeing. Wellbeing means feeling healthy in your mind and your body



- young people take part in their communities



We work together with:

- local communities
- groups
- charities
- and councils



This year we worked with 50 local communities in England, Wales and Scotland.



We helped more than 20 thousand people.



This report tells you about the work we did from **April 2020** to **March 2021**.

How COVID-19 has affected our work

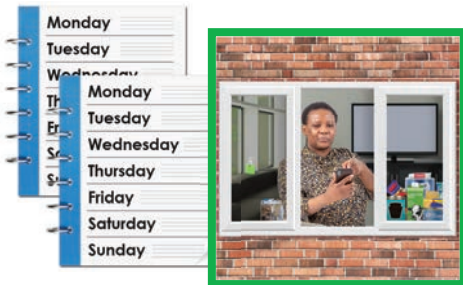


COVID-19 is an illness that has spread around the world.



Because of COVID-19 everyone had to follow rules. These rules made things very difficult for everyone.

Things like:



- staying at home for a long time and not seeing friends or some family



- having to stop doing things you would usually do



- having friends or family die from COVID-19



This meant more people needed help and support from volunteers. Things like:

- shopping for food



- getting medicines and other useful things like books and laptops



- keeping in touch with people to stop them feeling lonely



- taking pets for a walk



To make sure we kept everyone safe from COVID-19 we had to change how we worked. Things like:

- using computers and phones to talk to people instead of meeting in person



- getting more volunteers and training them quickly



- wearing face masks, gowns and gloves to keep everyone safe



- training volunteers about the COVID-19 rules

Extra work we did in COVID-19



We have been part of a group called The Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership.



This group helped the governments to know when and where volunteers were needed most.

Helping people to travel safely



We worked with the Department for Transport and other organisations on a plan called Journey Makers.



The plan helped train passengers to travel safely after the COVID-19 rules finished.



Volunteers helped at more than 80 train stations across the country.

Making face masks

Volunteers in Norfolk made more than 1 thousand face masks for homeless people in Bradford.

One volunteer stayed up all night and made more than 130 face masks!



COVID-19 tests in schools

We helped with doing COVID-19 tests for children aged 11 and older when the schools opened again.



Our work supporting groups in England

Lifelines

Volunteers in Brighton helped nearly 400 older people to connect with other people. Because of COVID-19, they supported each other by post, phone and online.



Youth Social Action

Young volunteers in Ipswich made lots of activity packs to help families who needed extra support. Lots of local organisations were involved in making the packs.



Supporting homeless people

Volunteers in Ipswich gave information and support to more than 600 homeless people. They gave out face masks to help stay safe from COVID-19.





Match and Mentor

This project in Norfolk supported 45 people with learning disabilities.



Volunteers wrote letters, phoned people, and made a newsletter.



They got extra money for laptops and tablets, and trained people to use them.

This helped people stay in touch with other people during COVID-19.



Volunteer Drivers Service

Volunteers in Milton Keynes helped people to get to medical appointments, school and for their COVID-19 vaccines.



Drivers also took food and medicine to people's houses.



Twigs Gardening Club

Twigs is a gardening club in Dorset. It has over 100 members.



The club helps people who are feeling alone. Members of the club make friends and learn new skills.



Volunteer Centre Newcastle

This group works out where volunteers can help most in their local community.



We help over 1 thousand organisations to support their volunteers.



We also helped to make the Newcastle Volunteer Passport. This is a plan that helps organisations to get new volunteers more quickly.

Volunteering in schools in London

We help young people who:

- go to schools for young people with extra needs

or

- are at risk of being excluded from school. Excluded means they are not allowed to go to that school any more



We made some packs to help young people learn at home. We gave out more than 400 packs.



Young people are involved in planning the work that we do.

Our work supporting groups in Wales



Volunteers in Newport

Volunteers in Newport helped the council to support more than 200 people. They helped with shopping and taking food and computers to people who needed them.



Gwent Youth Social Action

Young people in Gwent from 2 projects called SAFE and Mind Matters became online wellbeing champions.

This means they helped other young people to:

- stay safe online and talk to other young people during lockdown

and

- learn about wellbeing





Welcome Friends

Volunteers in Rhondda, Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil visit people at home, run craft groups and lunch clubs.

They help people who are over 50 and at risk of feeling lonely.



Active8

This group helps young people aged 16 to 24 who do not go to school or have a job.



Active8 helps them to learn new skills to help them find jobs in the future.



Staff from companies like Aviva, Barclays and the National Grid did workshops to give people help and advice.

Our work supporting groups in Scotland

Befriending young people

We work with North Lanarkshire Council to run a **befriending** service for young people aged 8 to 18.

Befriending means listening, being someone to talk to and giving support.



During COVID-19, volunteers helped young people and their families with things like: wellbeing checks, activity packs, online quizzes and games.



RSVP Forth Valley

RSVP is the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme.



Lots of RSVP volunteers had to shield during COVID-19. This means they were more at risk of being poorly from COVID-19.

They could not volunteer in case they got ill.



We got lots of new volunteers to help.



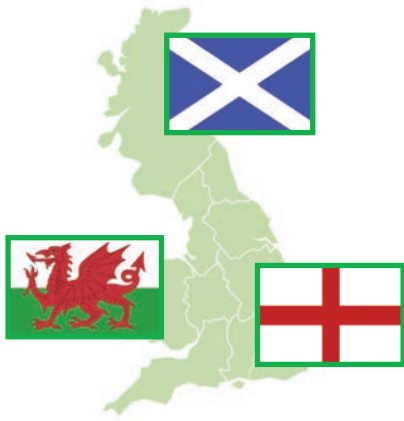
Action Earth

Action Earth gives money to projects to make local green spaces better.



More than 3 thousand volunteers have helped with Action Earth projects.

Work we do in Great Britain



These projects help people across England, Wales and Scotland. But they don't work in every local area.

Mentoring for Families

Our volunteers support families who are involved with social services.



They support nearly 1 thousand people with things like:



- housing and managing their money



- education, training and finding a job



- health and wellbeing



Grandmentors

This group helps young people who have been in care.



Grandmentors are volunteers who help them. They understand what it is like.



Volunteers work together with young people to give help and support with things like:

- education and finding a job
- housing
- managing their money



#iWill

This project helps more children and young people to take part in their communities.

We want them to be involved in things like:



- volunteering
- raising money for charity
- supporting other young people

Befriending Project: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service

Volunteers gave help and support to nearly 500 people who have:

- been in trouble with the law

or

- had a crime happen to them





Equip

Equip helps young people who do not go to school or have a job. They help people to:



- write a CV. A CV tells an employer about your skills and what work you have done before



- get better at job interviews



- be more confident
- do more things to help themselves

More information



Thank you for reading our report. You can find more information about our work:



Online:

www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk



By phone:

020 3780 5870



On Twitter:

@volunteering_UK