

VOLUNTEERING MATTERS



Our Organisational Strategy (Easy Read)

2025 - 2030

About us



Volunteering Matters is a charity that works across England, Scotland and Wales.



We believe volunteering makes communities stronger.



We work with local groups and partners to run projects that help people.



We have more than 12,000 volunteers working on over 85 different projects.



Together they support more than 115,000 people each year.

What is volunteering



You do it because you want to, not because you are paid.

Volunteering means giving your time to help other people or your community.



Volunteering can be for anyone. It does not matter how old you are, where you come from, or what skills you have. Everyone has something to give.

Examples of volunteering:



Helping a neighbour with shopping or gardening



Helping at a charity event



Reading with children at school



Looking after nature by planting trees or cleaning a park



Visiting someone who is lonely

Our approach



Our projects are planned with the people and communities we work with.



This means local people are not just helped. They also become future volunteers and leaders.



We know life can be hard. That is why we create flexible and welcoming opportunities for people of all ages.



We also speak up to government, so volunteering is valued and supported for the future.



Volunteering is an act of hope. It proves that one person can make a difference.

By 2030, we want to see



Less loneliness and isolation



Better mental and physical health



More opportunities for excluded people



Communities leading change



Fair, long term funding for volunteering projects



Everyone able to give and get something back



Governments listening to people



People seen as valuable and future leaders



Our five focus areas



1

Combat loneliness

No one should feel alone. Volunteering builds friendships and belonging.



2

Improve health and wellbeing

Good health starts with community. Volunteering supports everyone's wellbeing.



3

Break down barriers

Talent is everywhere but opportunity is not. Volunteering opens doors.



4

Equip and enable communities

Communities know best what they need. We work with them, not for them.



5

Create social cohesion*

Volunteering unites people. Many who are helped go on to help others.



*What is social cohesion?

Social cohesion means people in a community feel connected, safe and included.



In a socially cohesive community, people work together, support one another and feel proud of where they live.



It is when everyone feels they belong, people respect and help each other, and different groups get along well.



Our promise to volunteers



We will keep creating new ways for you to make a difference.



We will bring people of all ages and backgrounds together.



We will train and support you so you feel confident.



We will listen to your ideas and use them to guide our work.

Our ecosystem of volunteering

There are many ways to volunteer. All are important.



People can move between these types at different times.
We support them at every stage.

Challenges we face



Many people are too busy to volunteer.

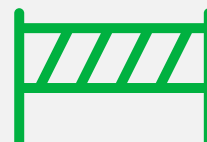


Rising living costs make it hard to give time for free.

Charities face higher costs while needing to do more.



People who benefit most from volunteering often face the biggest barriers.



That is why inclusion is at the heart of our work.

Our goals for 2025 to 2030



Volunteering as part of everyday services

When things like schools or hospitals are planned, we want people to think about how volunteers can help right from the start.



Fair access to volunteering

We want everyone to be able to volunteer, no matter if they don't have much money, face unfair treatment, or have caring responsibilities at home.



Communities leading the way

We will support local people to come up with their own ideas and run projects that make their communities better.



Funding that lasts and is fair

We will campaign for money that supports volunteering in a fair way, lasts for the long term, and is built on trust.



Together we can build stronger, fairer communities through the power of volunteering.

How you can help



Volunteer with us and give your time to support communities.



Support our work by donating to help projects grow.



Fundraise with friends, family or colleagues.



Be part of us and create opportunities in your community.



For more about ways to get involved visit
www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk

**Building a better
future for everyone**

Volunteering Matters is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 291222 and in Scotland no. SC039171. Volunteering Matters is a company limited by guarantee no. 1435877.