



SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEERING FORUM (SWVF)

Membership Benefits

If you are a Volunteer Coordinator, or just want to support and develop volunteering in the area, this is your chance to:

- meet bi-monthly with other people working in South Warwickshire facing similar challenges/issues
- share experience and expertise in volunteer management and related issues
- get up to date with latest volunteering developments
- focus on specific volunteering issues through regular training and or workshops chosen by the members
- find out more about Warwickshire CAVA and Volunteer Centre services and how you can access them
- access support for Volunteer Co-ordinators, who in turn, will provide support for their volunteers

**If you are interested in becoming a member of this Forum or would like more information please contact: Chris Lancaster
Tel: 0845 051 1172 Email: clancaster@cvswd.org.uk**

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The next event will be a FREE one day workshop examining "Challenging Behaviours" we face at work with clients, volunteers and others.

The session will give participants an opportunity to explore the issues and identify ways of dealing appropriately and safely with difficult behaviours and conflicts within our organisations.

The workshop will be held on **Thursday, 15 May from 9.30 am - 3.00 pm** at Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs in Leamington and includes lunch.

This workshop is open to all members of SWVF.

**If you would like to book a place contact
Chris Lancaster on 0845 051 1172 or email clancaster@cvswd.org.uk.**



“Local People making a difference locally”

My name is Lorna Martin and I volunteer for Solace which is a voluntary organisation operating a helpline for those with mental health problems.

I have only worked for Solace for a few months, and already I know that this charity is the right one for me. The work is varied, challenging and very rewarding, the callers interesting and inspirational. But more than that, I have my own personal reasons for choosing Solace.

Having suffered from depression for many years, I was subsequently diagnosed as being bi-polar. Although virtually stable now with the aid of a cocktail of drugs, I have experienced negative thoughts, self-harm, alcohol abuse and ‘suicide’ attempts amongst many other common symptoms.

I am able to speak to many of our callers with genuine knowledge and understanding, which I hope helps and encourages them to call again.

There are callers whose experiences go beyond mine, but being familiar with some of the universal problems and prejudices those with mental health problems face, I feel I am at least able to empathise.

When I was at my lowest, I, myself, was a caller to Solace and found that just to be listened to without judgement helped enormously. Now I have the chance to give something back.

MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

In its recent report *Manifesto for Change*, (published on 28 January 2008) the Commission on the Future of Volunteering concluded that voluntary organisations are not doing enough to encourage would-be volunteers and support existing volunteers.

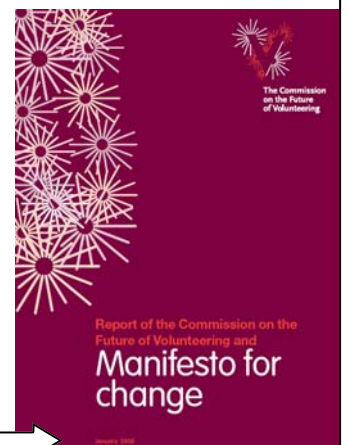
Below and next page is a summary of recommendations from the Commission:

The Government should:

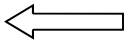
- Make a cabinet minister responsible for volunteering
- Make a parliamentary select committee responsible for volunteering
- Provide £1m to help under-represented groups
- Set up a £5m annual match fund to support partnerships between charities and councils
- Set targets for volunteering by public servants
- Monitor use of the Compact and volunteering code of practice
- Ask regulators such as Ofsted to report on support for volunteers

The sector should:

- Find creative ways of appealing to people's strengths and passions
- Raise the profile of volunteering and existing promotional events
- Promote employee volunteering in the sector
- Introduce local volunteering champions



Continued



Joint actions:

- Do more to recognise and reward volunteers
- Commit to basic training, support volunteering managers and develop a recognised accreditation scheme

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from

http://www.volcomm.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0B8EC40C-C9C5-454B-B212-C8918EF543F0/0/Manifesto_final.pdf

The response from Office of the Third Sector can be downloaded from

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/government_volunteering_response_final.pdf

John Lewis Partnership



JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP (JLP)

JLP run a charity (The Golden Jubilee Trust) which gives UK registered charities the opportunity to benefit from the skills of its workforce and it allows members of staff to be released on full pay to work with a charity in their area.

Secondments are flexible full or part time up to a maximum length of 6 months.

The work can be for anything but it must have a clearly defined purpose and preferably give ongoing benefit. The person undertaking the work must be well matched to the task in skills and personality.

Trustees of JLP meet in the spring and autumn to consider applications.

So if you would like to find out more contact Chris Jones, via email at chris_l_jones@johnlewis.co.uk or visit the website www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk.



CAN WE INTERVIEW YOU ABOUT BEING A TRUSTEE?



If anybody has experiences of being a trustee and how they have tried to get their trustee board to work better we'd love to interview you as a case study, particularly if you have used the 'Code of Good Governance' or other similar resources.

Email: chiara.vitali@nfpsynergy.net or call on 020 7415 7155 to find out more.

From nfpSynergy e-newsletter



National Volunteers Week 1st -7th June 2008



How are you celebrating?

The South Warwickshire Volunteering Forum is holding a "Picnic in the Park" on Saturday, 7 June from 12.00 noon onwards at the Pump Room Gardens, Leamington to say a big **THANK YOU to all our volunteers**. If you are a member of the Forum and would like to take this opportunity to thank your volunteers and/or want to participate with the planning of the picnic, just contact Chris Lancaster by email on clancaster@cvswd.org.uk or phone 0845 051 1172.

10 TOP 10 REASONS WHY 10 VOLUNTEERS LEAVE

The previous article promotes recognition events for Volunteers Week, however, we might also keep in mind that not every volunteer feels appreciated. With all the evidence gathered by the Commission for the Future of Volunteering now published, below are the top ten reasons why volunteers leave.

Reason #10:

The reality of their experience is not what they expected when they signed on.

Reason #9:

They don't like the work they are being asked to do nor how it is being done.

Reason #8:

Veteran or leadership volunteers won't let them into the "insider" group.

Reason #7:

They spend more time meeting than doing.

Reason #6:

No one listens to their suggestions.

Reason #5:

They feel unrecognized, and see that thanks are unfairly given to everyone, no matter who did the most work or none at all.

Reason #4:

They are no longer *asked* to participate.

Reason #3:

They do not actually understand *how* to get more involved.

Reason #2:

They can no longer see how their involvement makes a difference.

And the #1 reason volunteers leave is:

It stopped being fun.

Would you like to improve the chances of retaining your volunteers?

You can talk this over with Chris Lancaster and/or have a one-to-one consultation – just email: clancaster@cvswd.org.uk or phone 0845 051 1172.