

Vision for Volunteering

A new 10 Year strategy for Volunteering

What is the Vision for Volunteering?

- A 10-year strategy for volunteering.
- Focus is on creating a culture of volunteering, embedded in civil life.
- Increase inclusivity to ensure volunteering is open to all.
- Empower local communities through voluntary service.

Who created the Vision and why?

- Vision for Volunteering is led by NAVCA, NCVO, Volunteering Matters and the Association of Volunteer Managers. More than 300 VCSE groups contributed to its development.
- The importance of volunteering was highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Voluntary Sector must plan now to protect and promote volunteering going forwards, so communities can step up to look after their most vulnerable in future emergencies and times of need.

Volunteering is changing

- Volunteering currently isn't accessible or equally enjoyable for everyone.
- We saw huge changes happen for volunteers and their activities during the Covid-19 pandemic, but not all of this was positive or permanent.
- We also see changing patterns in who volunteers, how and in what activities and roles.

The Vision for Volunteering tackles 5 key themes

- Awareness and Appreciation
- Power
- Equity and Inclusion
- Collaboration
- Experimentation

Awareness and Appreciation - A future where a culture of volunteering is part of everyone's life and volunteer roles are given the recognition they deserve.

- Massive volunteer response during Covid lockdown shows the potential within local communities.
- Volunteering has become a key element in the delivery of public services in recent years (Filling gaps, emergency response such as staffing Covid vaccination centres).
- However, the perception of volunteering still doesn't reflect the importance of the role it plays in our society.

Power - A future where volunteers (and the communities they serve) lead on change that matters to them.

- Local communities understand local need better than anyone, and are often best placed to respond. This was seen in the growth of mutual aid response during the Covid lockdown.
- The Government has recognised the value of volunteering in its recent paper ‘Unleashing the Power of Civil Society’. It encourages communities to embrace the Vision for Volunteering.

Equity and Inclusion - A future where it's easy for people to give their time and energy to the causes they care about, they feel welcomed, and the benefits are equally distributed.

- Need to create new kinds of volunteering roles to suit all people, i.e. micro-volunteering, home based roles, ESV, occasional volunteering, opportunities for young people, accessible roles for people with disabilities.
- Recognise volunteers as equals in the delivery of your services. Without their effort, time and skill you couldn't do what you do.

Collaboration - A future where collaboration is natural and spontaneous, where people do great stuff together because they want to.

- Hyper local action, such as neighbourhood WhatsApp groups, Mutual Aid groups, School PTA's.
- Local VCSE infrastructure should support and enable where possible, but not seek to absorb or replace spontaneous local action.
- More collaboration between groups with similar themes (C1st Stronger Together Networks)

Experimentation - A future where communities aren't afraid to try new things to develop their own, innovative solutions to engaging and supporting volunteers.

- Be creative. Talk to other groups, learn about what they are doing to attract and retain volunteers. It might work for you!
- Look at other sectors (i.e., private, statutory, education) and consider how you could enable them to participate in volunteering.

Find out more at
visionforvolunteering.org.uk

Questions?