

Isle of Man Government

VOLUNTEERING GUIDANCE



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Government**

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VOLUNTEERING



Volunteering is important as it offers vital help to worthwhile causes, people in need, and the wider community. It can connect you to your community by allowing you to help improve the lives of your community members, making it a better place for everyone to live in.

Being a volunteer not only makes a difference in the lives of others but it can also benefit us personally. It can open doors to new opportunities and experiences enabling you to learn new skills, make new friends and provide valuable support to your community.

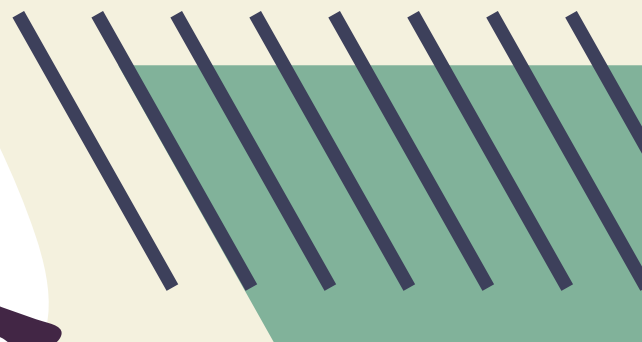
This leaflet is for anyone interested in volunteering. It brings together information and resources to help prospective volunteers get started on their volunteering journey.

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

How do I get started?

There are lots of ways you can get involved! Firstly, you need to consider a few things in order to find the right volunteering position for you. You might want to begin with asking yourself some questions before you start your search such as: Why do you want to volunteer? What do you want to gain from the experience?

There are many other questions you can ask yourself to get started. Visit the "I want to volunteer" section at [gov.uk/getinvolved](https://www.gov.uk/getinvolved) for more examples.



Ways to volunteer

Once you have considered why you want to volunteer, what you hope to achieve from the experience, and the amount of time you have to volunteer, it's now time to do a little research to find the opportunity that's right for you.

Visit the "Ways to volunteer" section at gov.im/getinvolved for some examples of volunteering activities.

You now have an idea of what you might like to do! The next step is to carry out further research related to your interests to find contact details for charities and organisations that you might be able to help.

Visit the "Searching for opportunities" section at gov.im/getinvolved to begin your enquiries and discover more opportunities that may be more suited to your interests and skills. Some of these opportunities can also be found at covid19.gov.im/health-wellbeing/are-you-ok/are-you-giving/

Try to think outside the box during your searches and you may find inspiration in unlikely places, for example, a local business directory may spark an interest!

Careers and advice on volunteering

Volunteering can boost your CV. Showcasing your experience, interests and passions can tell a potential employer many things about you, including that you can take initiative, you're committed, and that you can be a team player.

The UK's National Careers Service website offers useful information and advice on volunteering and its career benefits <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/advice-on-volunteering/>

Young persons

Volunteering can have lifelong benefits for young people and help develop skills that will benefit them in school, their career and in life. There are many ways for the youth to get involved such as helping a neighbour or volunteering with a local organisation. There are some organisations that may not be able to insure under 16s so be sure to ask them that their insurance covers your age group.

For more information on how young people can get involved visit: the "Young Persons" section at gov.im/getinvolved



I'm a volunteer!

What next?

Here are some key issues to consider when becoming a volunteer:

Rights as a volunteer

Volunteers do have rights, some of which are included in legislation and some of which are the moral obligations of an organisation. Volunteers will not usually have a contract though which means you will not have the same legal protections as a paid employee or worker.

For more information about volunteers' rights visit the "Rights as a volunteer" section at gov.im/getinvolved

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about protecting everyone from harm, abuse or neglect. It is important for volunteers to understand how to spot the signs of abuse and neglect and how to report any concerns that you may have.

For further guidance on your safeguarding responsibilities as a volunteer and action you can take visit:

<https://www.gov.im/categories/caring-and-support/safeguarding/>

Criminal Record

Having a record should not stop you from volunteering but it may limit what you can do. If your volunteer role involves access to young people or vulnerable adults, the responsible organisation will need to apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check on your behalf. For more information on DBS checks and frequently asked questions visit:

<https://www.gov.im/categories/working-in-the-isle-of-man/vetting-and-safer-recruitment/disclosure-and-barring-service/>

<https://www.gov.im/categories/working-in-the-isle-of-man/vetting-and-safer-recruitment/dbs-checks-faqs/>

