

Our plan for volunteering

What we are going to do



This booklet was written by the **West Glamorgan Regional Partnership**. It is an easy read version of 'Regional Strategy for Volunteering'.

How to use this booklet



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 15**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **West Glamorgan Regional Partnership**. For more information contact:

Website: www.westglamorgan.org.uk

E-mail: west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk

Phone: 01792 633 805



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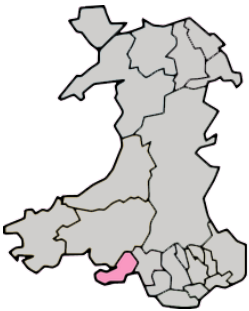
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About us and this booklet



We are the **West Glamorgan Regional Partnership**.



We are a group of organisations in the West Glamorgan area, covering **Neath Port Talbot** and **Swansea**.



The organisations in our group are:

- Neath Port Talbot Council
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Swansea Council
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
- West Glamorgan Regional Team



We want to make a good plan for volunteering in our area.



We want to agree on what volunteering means and how to better help volunteers.

What volunteering means



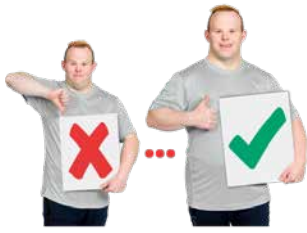
We have agreed that volunteering means when you choose to do something good for others without getting paid.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This is the same meaning the Welsh Government uses.

Why we made this plan



We want to make volunteering better. We know that each organisation is different and has different needs.



Having volunteers is not free. We need to spend money and time to help volunteers do their tasks well and in a safe way.



When we have volunteers, we should plan how to pay for their training and costs.



Some volunteering is more risky than others. We need to:



- Keep volunteers and others safe.



- Do risk assessments. This is seeing what risks there are and how to make them less.



- Pay for insurance.

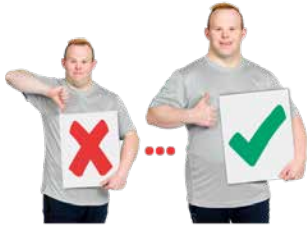


- Make good roles for volunteers.



Knowing how to help different volunteers is an important part of this plan.

We want to:



- Make things better in our area, so more people can volunteer.



- Help volunteers, so they can do good things for our area.



- Collect information in the same way, so one volunteer can swap between different organisations.

What we have agreed



We have a project called the **West Glamorgan Volunteering Support** project.

In 2022 the project talked to other organisations and their volunteers. This was to learn more about volunteering in our area.

From what the project learned, we have agreed to:



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

1. Use the same meaning of the word volunteering as the Welsh Government.



2. Help and celebrate volunteers. Tell more people about volunteering.



3. Explain the different ways to volunteer and how to help volunteers.



4. Choose and protect volunteers well. Train and guide them. Make rules and plans to keep them safe and happy.



5. Know the difference between volunteers and staff and keep this clear.



6. Ask volunteers what they think about their volunteering and listen to them.



7. Learn how different volunteering can get us more volunteers and **diverse** volunteers.

Diverse means we are not all the same. For example, people:

- Come from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Have different abilities.
- Believe different things.
- Have different sexual identities.
- Make different choices.
- Are different ages.



8. Find out why volunteers want to volunteer and help them reach their goals.



9. Welcome **diverse** people to volunteer. Tell them how to volunteer in lots of ways, like using the Volunteering Wales website.



10. Follow the best advice on volunteering and listen to local **County Voluntary Councils**. Their job is to give advice about volunteering.



11. Get good information about volunteers. Learn how volunteering is good for them and services.



12. Let volunteers share their views.



13. Teach the people who help volunteers how to manage them well.



14. Meet and talk about how to get more volunteers.

Action plan

We plan to do these things:



- Keep working in our area to learn about different volunteer roles and what volunteers need. This is important as we work more closely with volunteers.



- Tell people how volunteers make services better, especially in health and care.



- Make 3 ways in our area for people to talk about volunteering:



- 1. Volunteer voices.** Make times for volunteers from within our organisations to meet in our area.



This will show how volunteers do well and help them enjoy volunteering. It will help them make friends. Volunteers will help plan and run these meetings.



2. **Volunteer managers.** Make a group of volunteer managers from different organisations to learn from each other. This group will work on:



- Collecting good information.
- Getting **diverse** volunteers.



- Making volunteering safe.
- Finding new ways for people to volunteer.



- Showing how one person can volunteer for different organisations.



3. The **West Glamorgan Regional Volunteering Strategy Group.** This is a smaller group who focus on volunteering and this plan.

Hard words

Diverse

Diverse means we are not all the same. For example, people:

- Come from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Have different abilities.
- Believe different things.
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