

Ashfield Voluntary Action has always acted as a broker for volunteers. The current Covid-19 pandemic means that their support is needed more than ever.

AVA now has a bank of 48 active volunteers fulfilling a wide variety of roles. We are really proud of the way Ashfield people have stepped up and enabled us to provide a timely, flexible and responsive solution to local need.

We now have 17 Covid Responders who are able to support people who are shielding or vulnerable and in need of support. As with all our volunteers, Responders are interviewed, checked and references are taken as part of our duty of care both to service users and the volunteers themselves.

The Responders do an amazing job, providing tailored support for those who would otherwise really struggle. The support provided by the Responders includes shopping, collecting prescriptions, telephone befriending and other tasks that people who are self-isolating are not able to fulfil. In addition to the COVID Responders, some of our volunteers are also supporting other local community groups and charities with an increased level of need. We have recently matched a volunteer with the local emergency food bank which has seen a significant escalation in need and therefore needed additional support.

Ashfield Voluntary Action has always taken its responsibility to volunteers very seriously and we have a long established history of finding appropriate placements for volunteers and also offering volunteering opportunities in-house for those who need a little extra help. Over the years we have provided supported volunteering opportunities for people with brain injuries, those on the autistic spectrum, those with mental health issues and people with a wide range of disabilities.

Despite high levels of deprivation in the area, the people of Ashfield have shown themselves to be very community minded. There are a wide variety of volunteering opportunities locally and we work really hard to match volunteers with appropriate opportunities so that they get the most of volunteering.

To discuss our work in more detail contact:

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