

Dawn's Story



Ashfield
VOLUNTARY ACTION

I began volunteering in May 2021. I had worked 37 years in the Education Sector and took early retirement. I decided that in this next chapter of my life I needed structure and I wanted to meet new people and help out where I could.

I learned about AVA when I came into the building for my Covid vaccine. I spoke to one of the Covid volunteers whilst I was waiting for my jab and we got chatting and she told me all about AVA and the work they do. I first applied to be a Walk Buddy for AVA and when the volunteer co-ordinator spoke to me about my past work experience, she asked if I would be prepared to also do some volunteering as an administrator.



I really feel valued by my new colleagues and enjoy working as part of a team. Before stepping through the door I was a little bit nervous, but as soon as I took that first step, I felt fine. Everyone was so welcoming, I came in for an 'interview', but really it was more of a chat. Everyone was so nice and I felt like I fitted in straight away.

Volunteering gives you a chance to try a new challenge and meet people. I feel like I have turned the page from my previous life. Volunteering at AVA has given me a sense of purpose and I feel that I am really contributing to the community and that my contribution is valued.

It can be difficult to take that first step, but it is so rewarding. So I would say, definitely go for it and get in touch, I am so glad I did.



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Would you like to meet new people, learn new skills, make friends and give something back to your community?

Maybe volunteering is your next step?

Contact Ashfield Voluntary Action to find out more

☎ 01623 555 551

