

We are seeking funding to extend our capacity to support volunteers and develop a **Volunteer Action Squad**. Whilst Ashfield Voluntary Action has always acted as a broker for volunteers, funding cuts over the years have meant that this service has been reduced and we currently employ a volunteer co-ordinator on a one day-a-week basis only.

We would dearly like to offer a far better service. Everyone benefits from volunteering; the volunteer, the community and the service user. The impact can literally be life changing both for the volunteer and the recipient of the service provided.

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. With greater capacity we could do so much more.



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 whilst we currently work to match volunteers with opportunities, if we had greater capacity we could actively promote volunteering rather than simply react to enquiries.

In addition to extending our capacity by providing an extra day a week and meeting volunteer expenses, we would also like to reactivate our registration as an accredited



Volunteer Centre. We pride ourselves on being a credible, robust, dynamic, forward-thinking, and professional organisation. Consequently, accreditation is a vital foundation in the delivery of a appropriate and fit-for-purpose service as a volunteer broker.

The cost of running this project for one year is £9,800.

To give an idea of the positive benefits of volunteering on both the volunteer and the service user, two of our current volunteers recently commented on the impact volunteering had had on their lives.



One volunteer said that prior to volunteering her life had no purpose and she felt like she was simply, “waiting to die”. She now volunteers for Ashfield Voluntary Action, another local charity and is in the process of applying for a third volunteering post. Volunteering has given her a new lease of life, growing confidence and has introduced her to a new circle of friends. Another volunteer is living with a brain injury and had really struggled to readjust to the implications of his injury. He now volunteers two days a week and his wife recently commented that she “...has got her husband back”.

Volunteer Befriending Scheme Costs for One Year		
Item	Detail	Cost
Volunteer expenses	Covering volunteer travelling expenses	£2,000
NCVO Accreditation	Contribution towards NCVO accreditation as a Volunteer Centre	£1,000
Salary for additional day for Volunteer Co-ordinator	Based on 1 day per week plus administrative and management costs	£6,800
		£9,800



To discuss this project in more detail contact:

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