

Havering Volunteer Centre (HVC)

HVC are the primary focus for all volunteers' and volunteering-involving organisations needs and services within the London Borough of Havering. *We are a user-friendly organisation, bringing together expertise and knowledge of voluntary action in Havering. HVC's purpose is to advise and support people willing to volunteer, promote volunteering and community involvement, support and give advice to organisations to involve volunteers.*

Havering Volunteer Centre holds the details of many local volunteering opportunities. We provide both organisations/groups and residents volunteering opportunities through our brokerage service.

We can provide:

- **one to one sessions with an advisor**
- **information, support and guidance service**
 - **referral and introduction process**
 - **outreach sessions**
 - **training sessions**
- **comprehensive follow-up service**

HVC provide:

- A free volunteering brokerage service, matching local people to volunteering opportunities in volunteering involving organisations (VIOs);
- Free advice, information and training to VIOs on implementing best practice in volunteer management;
- Assistance to VIOs to enable them to develop their volunteering programs and opportunities;
- Responses to national and local policy and campaigning on volunteering issues;
- Marketing and promotion of volunteering in Havering;
- Development of volunteering strategy in Havering;
- Provide greater opportunity for volunteers to achieve their goals by increasing the diverse and flexible range of volunteering roles on offer;
- Assistance to organisations to increase the number of volunteers they engage with and be able to retain them by enhancing their experiences;
- Enhance the services provided by HVC and to work in partnership and collaboration to further develop the range of services provided.

Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship

Volunteering makes a significant and unique contribution to the local economy

Volunteering is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society, the community and the environment

Volunteering is freely undertaken, both formally and informally

Volunteers should not gain financially but may be reimbursed their out-of-pocket expenses if requested

Volunteering is freely given but is not cost-to the VIO. Funding, resources and support for volunteering are essential

Volunteering should be open to all, regardless of background, class, employment status, race, nationality, colour, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, marital/parental status, sexual orientation, disability or immigration status;

HVC will strive to eliminate barriers to volunteering and enable people facing disadvantage or discrimination the opportunity to volunteer

Volunteering is not a one-way gift. It is a mutual exchange, where the volunteer and the organisation/community both benefit

Volunteers should be valued and treated with fairness and respect. Their contributions to organisations and communities should be widely recognised

Volunteering can be a way to support people to gain skills, experience, increase employability, to give something back to society and make friends

HVC have a responsibility to the Havering community to deliver relevant services that are needed, appropriate and sustainable.

Approximately 3,000 volunteers (these are the ones known to the Volunteer Centre) Volunteer in Havering and currently gift a minimum of 4 hours each week volunteering which is a staggering 624,000 thousand hours of their time to help make life in this Borough better.

Greater London Volunteering equates the contribution of each volunteering hour as £13.00 per hour which amounts to **£8,110,000 million** in a cash value saving per year. The social value of these hours is less measurable. Suffice to say Havering would be unrecognisable without the work of volunteers.

(Statistics: from the Office of National Statistics and the Havering household Survey).

(*wage average taken from www.ncvo.org.uk/policy-andresearch/vol-sector-workforce/)

Havering Volunteer Centre does not select or interview volunteers. All appointments are informal and are a chance for potential volunteers to get a better idea about what voluntary work is available locally. Please note that all information provided to Havering Volunteer Centre is kept confidential.

Havering Volunteer Managers Forum (HVMF)

Havering Volunteer Centre hosts bi-monthly good practice sharing and networking meetings. It is held at the centre and there is a strong emphasis on peer support and learning from the collective expertise in the room.

Each forum has a section dedicated to volunteering relating news, local initiatives, policy updates and will also have workshops and guest speakers on topics suggested by members.

It is a great place to meet other volunteer co-ordinators and managers from the borough, share ideas and get support on issues you are facing.

It is also a really good place to promote your organisation, discuss new services your organisation is implementing, promote events and fundraising days.

The forums are free and there is usually space for people to turn up on the day, to find out about the next HVMF please contact volunteering@haveringvc.org.uk

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be kept up to date with all the volunteer centre news and current issues facing the voluntary sector please contact volunteering@haveringvc.org.uk