

Volunteer Management

August 2017

Connecting you with more volunteers

Keep your eye out for our new volunteering database which we in the Volunteer Centre Central Bedfordshire is launching in the near future. The new system will put you in control of your organisation's volunteering roles as well as giving you access to a bank of prospective volunteers – a really useful tool for volunteer-involving organisations. Volunteers register online and have the option to join the 'Volunteer Bank' which you, as a registered organisation, will be able to search through for prospective volunteers with a skill set matching what you need or who want to do the activities you need done.

Information about your organisation and details on the volunteering opportunities that you have listed with us already have been uploaded to the new system already; we'll be in touch soon to let you know when you can register, check and update those details before we go 'live'.

Promoting volunteering opportunities

You're desperate for more volunteer help; you have role descriptions and person specifications, but where and how do you promote the opportunities? Below are points to consider but please [get in touch](#) to request a copy of our more comprehensive information sheet 'Marketing Your Volunteering Opportunities'.

Word of mouth – do you take more notice if you see an advert for something or if your friends recommend it? Your current volunteers, staff and other stakeholders can be the best recruiters for new volunteers so make sure everyone knows when you're recruiting and for which roles.

Your organisation's website – don't have just an email address for enquiries or an online application form; include some detail on the different opportunities you're recruiting for and positive quotes or stories/case studies from current volunteers.

Other ways to promote your roles include social media; article/letter to local press or parish newsletters; local radio appeals; posters at venues such as supermarkets, community centres, shop windows, libraries, colleges/schools; organisation open days or volunteer taster sessions; talks to employees at local companies or groups such as Rotary; internal newsletters and emails; online recruitment sites (some paid job sites also include volunteer roles free of charge) – and your local Volunteer Centre, of course!

Changes in the Volunteer Centre

Our Volunteering Advisers Janet Brennan and Heather Wright are leaving to take up new roles with other organisations and we wish them all the best. Our new team advisers – Vicki Drummond, Volunteering Adviser (Volunteer Management) and Kay Henderson, Volunteering Adviser (Volunteer Recruitment) – join the Volunteer Centre team on 1st September. In the meantime, for any help or advice on volunteering, please get in touch with our Community Engagement Manager, Gina Croxford, gina@action-centralbeds.org.uk

And in other news ...

Social isolation – can you share best practice?

Alzheimer's Society in Bedfordshire & Luton is starting a project that looks into supporting people who are isolated and affected by dementia or know someone who's affected by dementia. The very fact that they're isolated makes this a challenging group to reach and the Society is keen to network with other organisations which has examples of best practice in reaching people affected by social isolation or experience of what doesn't work.

Also, if any organisation would like to be kept updated with the work Alzheimer's Society in Bedfordshire is doing with isolated people, please get in touch. The contact for this project is Joshua Pearce, Joshua.Pearce@alzheimers.org.uk

Bereavement support training

Cruse Bereavement Care has announced its next training course for anyone who would like to learn how to help and support those who are bereaved. The course runs over six Saturdays from October to January in Ampthill and costs £250 (can be paid in instalments, some concessions may be available).

Contact Cruse on 0300 200 4109 or email amanda.morton@crusebedfordshire.org.uk for details or a course prospectus.

Job vacancies

Events & Regional Fundraising Co-ordinator – Keech Hospice, 37.5 hrs per week (30 hrs will be considered), Luton. Closing date 20 August. See <https://www.keech.org.uk/jobs>

Trusts & Grants Officer – Keech Hospice, 37.5 hrs per week (30 hrs will be considered), Luton. Closing date 27 August. See <https://www.keech.org.uk/jobs>

Operations Manager - Groundwork, 30-37 hrs a week, based Luton but working across the east of England. Closing date 25 August. See www.groundwork.org.uk/east-vacancies-careers-link

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