

Celebrating 40 years of Volunteering in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

IiV Investors in Volunteers

Kingston Volunteer Centre would like to give you the opportunity to work towards and achieve IiV Investors in Volunteers the UK's national standard quality mark. We have spaces for up to five voluntary organisations to benefit from one to one support to gain the newly revised standard.

This support can include fundraising advice, a review of your existing volunteer policies and procedures, an organisation health check, information including a toolkit and other useful resources.

One of the major benefits of achieving IiV is recognition for the work you do anyway – managing volunteers. The quality mark

Good Sports



Volunteering will be at the heart of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Similarly, volunteering is at the centre of sports club activity in Kingston and in recognition of this, the Good Sports project was established to help increase the number of people volunteering in sport and physical activities in the borough.

Led by Hedley Featherstone, who is based at Kingston Volunteer Centre, the project is introducing a growing number of people to sports volunteering. Volunteer-involving organisations in Kingston can play a valuable role in helping Good Sports to spread the message and ensure more people get a buzz from volunteering in sports. By supporting Good Sports, you will help create a stronger

publicly demonstrates your commitment to high quality volunteer management and is a strong indication to funders of your commitment to good practice.

Kingston Volunteer Centre achieved IiV in 2007 and has successfully been re-accredited this year.

If you would like to get involved please email me at volunteering@kvc.org.uk. I look forward to working with you.

Maria Jarvis
KVC Manager



volunteering spirit in the borough, an improved volunteer network between the sports and volunteer sectors with more opportunities and better training for those who want to give their most important commodity – time. It doesn't take much, maybe a poster on your organisation noticeboard, an article on your website or an introduction for Hedley to speak with potential volunteers.

To find out how your club, organisation or specific interest in volunteering can help inspire and motivate more people into sports volunteering, **contact Hedley Featherstone on 020 8255 8685** goodsports@kvc.org.uk

Have You Had Your Volunteering Health Check?

In the last newsletter Maria introduced our new Good Practice project. The project is now fully underway and I am available to help organisations with your volunteer management, and support you through the Good Practice Health Check.

London's Volunteer Management Charter & Health Check - What is it?

The Charter was developed by Greater London Volunteering and gives clear guidance as to what makes excellent volunteering experiences. Signing up indicates that your organisation is committed to good practice when working with volunteers.

The Health Check goes hand in hand with the Charter. It is a questionnaire that identifies the activities and actions that constitute the key areas of volunteer management. For further information, visit www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk/web/charter

How will it benefit you?

- Again it signals to your volunteers, colleagues, funders and stakeholders that you are serious about implementing good practice
- It will tell you the essentials you should have in place
- Give you lots of ideas about volunteer management
- Identify areas you could improve on, using a simple action plan to signpost you to solutions

The following organisations have already signed up to London's Volunteer Management Charter and are in the process of undergoing their health check: Age Concern, Dyscover, Kingston Carers Network, Learn English at Home, Kaleidoscope, The Roy Castle Fund and the Campaign for Courtesy.

Dyscover recently signed up to the Charter and completed their health check.

Here is what Jane, their Volunteer Coordinator, thought of the experience:

“ Having the Health Check with Kingston Volunteer Centre ensures you are truly objective about your organisation, helping build on the levels of good practice and further developing standards of delivery – thank you! ”

Jane Warren, Volunteer Coordinator, Dyscover



Dyscover with their Charter (left to right)
Anna Abrahams, Speech & Language Therapist
John Peacock, Volunteer, Gill Jackson, Executive Director, Yvonne Harley, Volunteer, Mike Cutler, Volunteer

Date for Your Diary

Next Volunteer Co-ordinator Forum
“Good Practice - Involving Youth Volunteers”

Tuesday 14 September, 9.45 - 12.45
at Richard Mayo Centre

To find out more about the Good Practice project or book a Health Check contact Pat Stanley, Good Practice Advisor
outreach@kvc.org.uk 020 8255 8685

Champions of the Getting People Back to Work Project

The project has been running successfully for a year and has worked with many keen volunteers and organisations that have significantly benefited from the project. Throughout the year we have continued to build positive links with organisations and other services within the Borough in order to achieve a collective proactive partnership.

Many organisations have realised the benefits of employing people with disabilities or mental health problems. Breaking down prejudices has brought much-needed diversity to the workplace, and the volunteers have experienced a wide range of benefits that volunteering has to offer. The project continues to work proactively with organisations in making the workplaces more accessible to the individual volunteer.

Through the project's ethos, we have seen volunteers become more confident and consequently thriving in their roles. It is clear they have become more motivated to try new things and push their boundaries. This in turn has had a positive effect on other people who would not have normally considered volunteering and have now realised the benefits.

This is a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the project!

“ The Project Worker has been very helpful and supportive. She ensures that the volunteers are happy in their new work environment and duties. This support has helped us be more inclusive. ”

Oxfam, Kingston

“ Here at Refugee Action Kingston, we think that the service is very important in providing volunteering opportunities for people who need extra support and it certainly enriches our organisation ”

Refugee Action Kingston

“ Given my current medical situation [the] support and advice has been invaluable and have found it has worked in tandem with my counselling for mental health issues. ”

Getting People Back to Work volunteer



For more information on how your organisation can get involved, please, contact Veronica Mulenga on 020 8255 8685 or gettingpeoplebacktowork@kvc.org.uk

Youth Volunteering: New Good Practice Resource in the Making



Kingston Youth Action Team (YAT) is all about promoting volunteering to other young people aged 16 to 25.

Recently they have been busy making a DVD about young people's experiences of volunteering which will be launched later this year. The DVD will be a useful resource for the YAT to show to young people and to organisations about getting more young volunteers involved.

Natasha tells us about her own experience of being in the Kingston YAT and making the DVD:

“ Since joining the YAT, I have made so many friends. It's really helped me increase who I socialise with, along with learning about other young people's lives.

To make the DVD, I went on a training course with others from YATs in South London and got an AQA qualification in film-making and production. I have come to

understand how filming works and how to even work a professional film camera. It has been one of the best moments of my life as it is something I have always wanted to learn about.

I am sorting out the venue for the launch of our DVD and its helped me realise what type of skills I have. The volunteering has really improved who I am, making me more organised. Making the DVD for other young people has been great because it is something positive.”



Natasha (with headphones, in charge of sound) with other film crew members out on location.

Youth Opportunity & Capital Funds

Can you help more young people (especially from hard to reach and disadvantaged groups) to apply for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF)? YOF aims to provide young people with positive activities & things to do. YCF aims to provide for “places to go” in Kingston.

Who can apply? Anyone aged 13 to 19 (or under 25 with learning disability), living or educated in Kingston upon Thames, and who have a professional (e.g. youth worker, support worker, social worker) to support their application. Remaining deadlines this year are 31st August or 30th November. Visit www.younglavin.org.uk or contact kerry.mccabe@rbk.kingston.gov.uk or grahammansmith@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Know anyone 16 to 25 who wants to find out more about volunteering?

They can find Meena Kapila, Youth Volunteer Advisor out and about at: Kingston Connexions - drop-in sessions every Monday 1-3pm for 16 to 19s. Younglavin Bus in Kingston Town Centre (Memorial Square) - last Saturday of every month (not August), 1-3pm – for 16 to 25s – just pop in for a chat with Meena and the Youth Action Team.

Meena Kapila, Youth Volunteer Advisor
020 8255 8068
youthvolunteering@kvc.org.uk