

# Voluntary**Action**Islington

## Volunteer for Stronger Communities Info Pack

### **Our Volunteer Offer**

We offer volunteers a package of support and training along with the opportunity to find a placement with a local community organisation. All our volunteers are unemployed (although not necessarily claiming benefits) and all live in the Borough of Islington.

Placement with an organisation is mandatory, however it is up to the individual volunteer as to what extent they take advantage of the rest of the package we offer in terms of training and support.

### **Your Placement with a Voluntary Organisation**

Once registered we will talk with you and figure out what sort of organisation you might like to volunteer with and what sort of role might suit you.

We will do our best to find a role that gives you exactly what you want and suits your needs, preferences and experience.

Once role is identified we arrange for you to visit the organisation and decide whether it suits you. We can then help you into a placement with that organisation or continue researching more appropriate roles.

### **Types of Organisations and Roles**

We work with a wide range of voluntary organisations in Islington and hope to provide a placement that suits your own interests. Some areas could include office work, customer service, marketing, manual work, driving, care work, mentoring or catering.

### **Length and Regularity of Placement**

It is recommended that Volunteers commit to a minimum of three months for two days a week.

If you would like more or less time to volunteer then you can let us know what you have in mind and we can ensure we find you an organisation who is aware of and agreeable to that.

## **Training and Employability**

As a volunteer you can access employability seminars, e-learning courses, advice on careers and job searching and have the chance to take free training courses at colleges we have established partnerships with.

Every two months we run an employability seminar where an expert will give you some advice on finding work.

## **Social Aspect and Networking**

After each employability seminar there will be a catered social gathering where you can meet other volunteers and project staff.

## **We Can Support You Too**

We offer regular support to volunteers and stay in touch with you throughout your placement. You will be designated a mentor from Voluntary Action Islington who will make sure you get the most from the opportunities on offer.

The amount of contact you have with us over your placement is up to you.

## **Islington Volunteer Centre**

This project is a separate from the core work of Islington Volunteer Centre. However Islington Volunteer Centre is still ready and able to find volunteer opportunities for you, so feel free to register with the Volunteer Centre also.

## **Volunteer Expenses**

Your placement organisation will cover your reasonable lunch and travel expenses each time you volunteer for them.

If you are on benefits, volunteer expenses payments will not affect this in any way.

## **References and Certificates**

At the end of your placement you receive a certificate confirming your contribution to your organisation. In addition we provide a reference for future employment or training. Your organisation may also provide you with a reference based on your specific performance.

## **Welfare Benefits Status**

Anyone not in employment is entitled to take part in this project. That includes people on welfare benefits, unemployed people not on benefits, retired people, part time students and people recently out of a job or education.

We are working in conjunction with the Job Centres in Islington, and participation in this project does not affect entitlement to welfare benefits.

### **Additional Information and Support**

For any further information or advice about this project contact Paul Stephenson (the Project Officer) at Voluntary Action Islington:

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