

Memorandum of Understanding between Volunteering England and the Association of Volunteer Managers

1. Introduction to the Memorandum of Understanding

Volunteering England and the Association of Volunteer Managers share a common commitment to the development of volunteering in England and to working in partnership with key stakeholders to help deliver their goals.

The two organisations have developed this Memorandum of Understanding as a means of strengthening the relationship and building a more robust strategic alliance.

The Memorandum of Understanding recognises the similarities between the two organisations in terms of aims and values and sets out mechanisms by which information and intelligence can be shared for mutual benefit and for the overall good of volunteering.

The Memorandum of Understanding also recognises that there may be occasions when the two organisations take differing views on volunteering policies and initiatives. The hope is that the mechanisms which have been put in place will ensure that such differences can be acknowledged and expressed in a manner which is mutually supportive and reinforcing and in the best overall interests of volunteering in England.

2. Information about Volunteering England

Volunteering England is the national volunteering development agency for England. Its vision *"Is of a society where the potential and passion of people to transform lives and communities through volunteering is fully realised"* and its mission is to *"support an increase in the quality, quantity, impact and accessibility of volunteering throughout England."*

Volunteering England celebrates the contribution and value of volunteering in all its diversity ; values working in partnership with others; is a voice for volunteering; is independent and is seen to be independent; engages with others in open dialogue and debate; and is professional in all its dealings with paid staff, volunteers, members, stakeholders, partners and customers

Volunteering England's strategic objectives are:

1. To demonstrate the value of volunteering and its contribution to society.
2. To strengthen leadership, management and diversity in volunteering.
3. To ensure a volunteering-friendly economic, political and social environment.
4. To secure and support an effective and sustainable volunteering infrastructure.
5. To develop Volunteering England as a sustainable, well governed and well managed organisation.

Volunteering England has been involved in a number of projects in recent years focused on volunteer management including policy and campaigning, development of the Excellence in Volunteer Management programme, delivering the Investing in Volunteers standard in England and, via the Volunteering Hub, conducting the Volunteer Management Capacity Survey.

3. Information about the Association of Volunteer Managers

The Association of Volunteer Managers is an independent body that aims to support, represent and champion people who manage volunteers in England regardless of field, discipline or sector. It was set up by and for people who manage and involve volunteers in the work of their organisations.

The Association of Volunteer Managers works to:

- campaign and speak out on issues that are key to people who manage volunteers;
- facilitate effective support for those involved in volunteer management locally, regionally and nationally such as through peer-to-peer support, mentoring and highlighting appropriate training opportunities; and
- develop information and good practice resources on volunteer management.

The Association of Volunteer Managers defines volunteer managers as:

'People who, directly or indirectly, oversee, manage, co-ordinate or administer volunteers or volunteer programmes. Volunteer managers operate in all sectors and at all levels.'

It recognises that other terms can and are used to describe volunteer managers, that volunteer management may only be part of a volunteer manager's role and that volunteer managers are both paid and unpaid.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to:

- build and maintain a mutual understanding of each other's work;
- keep each other well informed;
- define our working practices in the spirit of collaboration and partnership; and
- strengthen volunteering in England.

In order to achieve these aims Volunteering England and the Association of Volunteer Managers will:

- Hold an annual meeting between the Chief Executive of Volunteering England and the Chair of the Association of Volunteer Managers to review:
 - the Memorandum of Understanding and its impact;
 - any joint activity undertaken;

- intelligence from members of both organisations about the way the relationship is perceived and experienced at local level;
 - ways in which Volunteering England and the Association of Volunteer Managers wish to develop the relationship in the coming year; and
 - potential for development of new joint activity.
- Hold a quarterly policy/information review meeting of key staff to:
 - share intelligence on forthcoming policy initiatives and to discuss respective organisational positions;
 - discuss the possibilities for shared work;
 - identify any points of contention and look for ways of resolving these;
 - draw up joint responses and submissions when appropriate.

Annexes to this Memorandum of Understanding will be added to cover any joint pieces of work developed between the two organisations.

This Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between Volunteering England and the Association of Volunteer Managers on 18 of June 2008.

Signed 

Signed 

Name JUSTIN JARVIS SMITH

Name JOHN RAMSEY

For and on behalf of:
Volunteering England

For and on behalf of:
Association of Volunteer Managers