



YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER – MAKING THE MOST OF VOLUNTEERING

The European Year of Volunteering runs during 2011. It aims to promote volunteering across all member states with events and a range of activities.

Three areas of Yorkshire and Humber have been particularly involved in the Year. They are Bradford, Leeds and York.

This special edition of the e-mail volunteering bulletin is devoted to information about the activities in these three areas. Dates are included (where we know them) and contact details, so that readers can get in touch and learn from the great ideas here.

BRADFORD



In Bradford there is a huge celebration to mark the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. The campaign is called "Active Citizens 2011" www.activecitizens2011.co.uk and brings together all the key strategic partners from the Council to the health trusts to celebrate the huge contribution volunteers bring to the local community.

The Volunteer Centre in Bradford is the lead agency and the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly in March has helped shaped the year with the support of the Bradford Infrastructure Organisations Group (ISOG).

Over 150 events have been created across the District to promote volunteering, two hundred new volunteering roles have been created, 600 good practice volunteering toolkits have been created and there has been a 10% increase in volunteering enquiries at the Volunteer Centres.

Through the campaign many new organisations are supporting volunteers for the first time thanks to good practice support from the Volunteer Centres in Bradford and Keighley. Many of these are sports clubs influenced by the enthusiasm for the Olympics. Bradford Volunteer Centre has developed new weekly sports volunteering drop-in sessions for volunteers and has achieved Sports Champion status from Volunteering England and Sport England.

Dave Forrest, Director of Bradford Volunteer Centre commented: "Volunteers make an amazingly significant contribution to the life of the Bradford District. It's the year of Active Citizens 2011 and we are celebrating, with European partners, the huge resource that volunteers bring to the Bradford District. The year has already seen a ten per cent increase in volunteer enquiries".

Contact:

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www.volunteeringbradford.org

LEEDS

The year in Leeds was launched at a European Volunteering event held with our partner European Cities (Lille, Dortmund, Brno, Seigen and Brazov) at the Royal Armouries on the 7th December. The target in Leeds during 2011 is to increase the number of recorded volunteering placements in the city by 25%.

Sustaining and developing the role of Volunteer Centre Leeds to provide volunteering opportunities and placements including outreach activities in local communities in Leeds

Running the six volunteering themes in 2011 to promote volunteering – see details in table below:

- Poverty and homelessness – a year long theme led by the Leeds housing and homeless organization "Latch" Contact mags@latch.org.uk
- Supporting young people and children - a year long theme led by the young people's organization "Learning Partnerships" Contact liz@learningpartnerships.or.uk
- Environmental volunteering – a spotlight during May and June led by environmental organization "Groundwork" Contact leah.black@groundwork.org.uk
- Sports volunteering – a spotlight during July and August looking forward to London 2012, led by "Sports Leeds" Contact Julie.lewis@leeds.gov.uk
- Culture and the arts volunteering – a spotlight during September and October led by arts organisation "Space 2" Contact manager@space2.org.uk
- Volunteering for Health and wellbeing – a spotlight during November and December led by "Healthy Living Network Leeds" Contact s.loyd@healthylivingnetworkleeds.org.uk
Charlotte.Orton@nhsleeds.nhs.uk

Producing a Volunteering Strategy for the city to link the city partnership priorities focussing on volunteering, philanthropy and participation

Developing closer working links between volunteer organisations and our partner European Cities through a European project

Reviewing the way that organisations in the city use volunteers and develop their own employee volunteering

A calendar of activities is below:

<p>Poverty and homelessness</p> <p>Throughout 2011 Contact: Latch - mags@latch.org.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A marketplace event to publicise organisations and recruit volunteers in the city centre (Briggate) in September Sat 24th. • Leeds Ahead event for businesses in the Autumn to introduce organisations to businesses who may be able to support them with volunteers or other resources. • An event to celebrate the contributions of long term volunteers to be held at St George’s Crypt on 3 November 2011 • A piece of research around the number of volunteers working with homeless organisations and their impact (Leeds Housing Concern to do this).
<p>Supporting young people and children</p> <p>Throughout 2011 Contact: Learning Partnerships liz@learningpartnerships.org.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and information toolkit to help create and support young volunteers • Involve Leeds secondary schools in volunteering – with Children’s Services
<p>Environment</p> <p>July/August Contact: Groundwork Leah.black@groundwork.org.uk</p>	<p>Aire Action Corporate Volunteering Events - August</p>
<p>Sport</p> <p>July/August Contact: Sports Leeds Julie.lewis@leeds.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed volunteering marketplaces for sports clubs and volunteers at Trinity University. David Young Academy, South Leeds High School, (to be held in October 2011)
<p>Culture and the Arts</p> <p>September/October Contact: Space 2 Emma Tregidden/Dawn Fuller manager@space2.org.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer music project in four communities in Leeds - Alwoodley Community Choir, Seacroft, Hawkesworth Wood and Gildersome • Light Night event on 11 October followed by community based events
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>November/December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketplace event in Leeds City Centre for health/wellbeing organisations to advertise their volunteering opportunities, showcase their work and

<p>Contact: Healthy Living Network Leeds s.lloyd@healthylivingnetworkleeds.org.uk Charlotte.Orton@nhsleeds.nhs.uk</p>	<p>recruit new volunteers..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week/fortnight of taster sessions where individuals and companies can try volunteering for health organisations • Get 10 health/wellbeing organisations to work towards volunteering Kitemark.
<p>General Events</p> <p>Contact: Steve Crocker Leeds Year of Volunteering Co-ordinator Leeds City Council Civic Hall – 2nd floor east Calverley Street Leeds LS1 1UR steve.crocker@leeds.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Leeds Volunteering Strategy December 2011 • End of Year awards December 2011
<p>Other Events</p> <p>Contact Voluntary Action-Leeds Stringer House 34 Lupton Street Hunslet Leeds LS10 2QW Tel. 0113 297 7920</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together for Peace SUMMAT event November 26th Leeds Carriageworks

YORK

We ran a volunteering conference on May 18th that attracted 80 representatives from Education, the Voluntary and Community Sector, Council and business. The conference debated 3 key issues for volunteering in York this year:

- Launching a York charter for volunteering
- Developing an awards framework for volunteering
- Discussing what part volunteering can play in developing new ways to deliver services in the city

The event was filmed by Khaos media which is an inclusive and accessible youth-led voluntary community media project for young people in a European youth media project called "Volunteering TV" as part of the EU Year of the Volunteer. The project involves working with young people from seven countries to raise awareness of volunteering on a local and European level.

We've also just completed an evaluation of eight projects that received small grants of up to £5,000 to increase access to volunteering by marginalized groups of people. We will be feeding in the evaluation findings to the research being undertaken later this year by Attend (opening the door to volunteering), as one of the Volunteering England themes for European Year of Volunteering 2011.

Contact:

Liz Hamilton, York Volunteer Centre:

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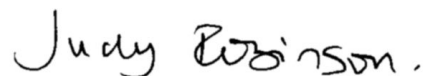
OPENING DOORS TO VOLUNTEERING

Workshops funded by Cabinet Office for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 - [see details here](#)

UPDATE FROM VOLUNTEERING ENGLAND

For the latest news from Volunteering England on the European Year of Volunteering – [see here](#)

With best wishes



Judy Robinson
Chief Executive

15 August 2011

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