



Online Conversations with the Third Sector: Volunteering

The session opened with information gathered from across the region which has influenced the development of TSDG's volunteering strategy. Consideration was given to the themes which have emerged in the strategy and how TSDG can support volunteer involving organisations in their volunteer management.

An informative presentation was given by Volunteer Scotland around the current cost of living crisis and its effect on volunteer involving organisations. The financial situation following directly from the pandemic has compounded issues for volunteer involving organisations. As a rural area, Dumfries and Galloway is experiencing a

disproportionate level of fuel poverty with a third of households in extreme fuel poverty. Volunteer involving organisations are experiencing increased costs due to volunteers claiming travel expenses which long term may also affect services in particular those where volunteers provide transport for service users.

Volunteer involving organisations need to increase the number of younger volunteers for the sustainability of their services. Saltire Awards recognise and celebrate the contribution that young people play in volunteering and demonstrate to employers, further education establishments and other organisations their commitment to help their local communities.

Emerging Themes

- The Covid19 pandemic changed how volunteering was undertaken and how volunteers were supported.
- Recruiting new volunteers is a challenge faced by organisations across the region.
- Young people (under 25) need to understand the benefits of volunteering and be encouraged to take part.
- Transport links across the region are an issue for many organisations with public transport being expensive, in short supply and not necessarily at times to suit volunteers.
- Expected increase in demand for volunteer involving organisations services combined with an increase in costs and reduction of income.
- A result of the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis has seen improved community resilience, more joint and partnership working and stronger community networks involving volunteers.



Participation Findings: We listen to understand

Do you have an organisational policy that covers volunteer expenses? What can TSDG do to support you with your volunteer management?

Half of the organisations indicated that a suitable expenses policy is in place within their organisation. The main challenges being faced by organisations are around volunteer recruitment and how to make volunteering attractive to a wide variety of people irrespective of age, gender or circumstances.

Do you promote Saltire Awards to volunteers under the age of 25?

Half of the organisations promote the awards to their younger volunteers. There is a need to promote the Saltire Awards out with secondary schools and to volunteer involving organisations to ensure that young people are rewarded for their volunteering. Young people are in control of their own Saltire accounts, therefore, there is limited work for organisations once the volunteer has signed up.

Would your organisation participate in a volunteer recruitment fayre?

All those who attended were positive about and would participate in volunteer recruitment fayres. Thursday and Friday proved to be the most popular days of the

week to organise a volunteering fayre and everyone was keen that timings should extend into the early evening to enable as many people as possible to attend.

Event feedback

Good to find out about the Saltire awards.

I will use what I've learned today in my work plans.

Good to hear about the challenges we are all facing.



THIRD SECTOR
Dumfries and Galloway

Takeaway Fact Sheet

Useful Information

Volunteer Scotland - Cost of Living guidance

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/cost-of-living>

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/volunteer-practice/cost-of-living-and-practice>

Saltire Awards

<https://saltireawards.scot/>

Submit your volunteer opportunities

<https://www.tsdg.org.uk/volunteering/submit-volunteering-opportunity/>

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway - Volunteering resources

<https://www.tsdg.org.uk/volunteering/resources/>

DGLocator:

Download the free DGLocator mobile app

for Apple at <https://apple.co/3BbTNs8> and

Android at <https://bit.ly/dglocatorandroid>

Website: <https://dglocator.org.uk/>

or access using the QR code.



Contact



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9am - 5pm Monday-Friday



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