

Volunteering in the Adult Social Care sector – we want your views on a national scheme that we are developing

What we'd like from you:

We are interested to explore the benefits of volunteers to the adult social care sector and how we can help build on the positive legacy of volunteering across the social care sector which existed prior to the pandemic and in some areas expanded during the pandemic.

We are reaching out to stakeholders across the sector to help us understand more about volunteering in the sector and the benefits it brings.

On the next few pages (2-4), we have outlined a range of questions that we would value your response to. Please feel free to provide as much/little that you are able to. Please return this document with your response to Ellen Thompson: ellen.thompson@dhsc.gov.uk and Jojo Shahvisi: jojo.shahvisi@dhsc.gov.uk.

Information on our Volunteer scheme plans so far

- We are looking at how we can build on the existing infrastructure in adult social care and the positive volunteering legacy from the pandemic.
- We want to understand how we support the social sector's use of volunteering to help enhance and enrich experiences for people who draw on care. We are also interested in increase volunteers in the sector to provide extra support for people who draw on care.
- We also are also interested in understanding how we can provide extra support to social care and to the sector in the event of emergency situations.
- During the pandemic an NHS Volunteer Responder programme was created and deployed rapidly. It is possible that this platform could also be used to support some aspects of adult social care volunteering.
- As part of the programme volunteers undergo background checks, including DBS checks, and training centrally. They are then matched with volunteering opportunities based on their location and volunteer role preferences.
- We are currently exploring the potential of forming a joint scheme with NHS volunteer responders to expand into social care sector.

Questions

Section 1: Benefits of volunteering

1. How do use volunteers within your organisation currently?

2. What do volunteers help you to achieve?

Section 2: Volunteer roles

3. What activities would you find it beneficial for volunteers to perform?

Section 3: Volunteer infrastructure

4. Do you think you could benefit from volunteers in a time of crisis?

5. Would a centralised system for volunteers, which organises training and DBS checks, be beneficial?

6. Is volunteering more suited to specific adult social care settings, if so which ones?

7. Is the consistency of volunteers essential or would adhoc non-repeating volunteering be useful?

8. Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experience of volunteering in the Adult Social care sector?