

NORTH OF TYNE VOLUNTEERING AREA OF EXCELLENCE

BITE SIZE VOLUNTEERING

Bite-size offers volunteers an opportunity to undertake short and specific activities that are quick to start and complete. There is often no commitment to repeat the activity and it can often take place from home or online.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE HEALTH CHECK FOR VOLUNTEER-INVOLVING ORGANISATIONS

The Health Check for Volunteer-Involving Organisations considers the extent to which you are able to recruit more volunteers to join your organisation and how you involve volunteers in meaningful ways that reflect their abilities and needs

NATIONAL RESEARCH

Research by The National Council for Voluntary Organisations indicates that shows that potential volunteers can be wary about signing up for a role with a large time commitment but that being asked to volunteer makes them more likely to get involved - <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/time-well-spent-2023/volunteer-motivations-values/>

WHY CONSIDER BITE SIZE VOLUNTEERING?

Bite size volunteering can be a great way for volunteer-involving organisations to recruit more volunteers who would otherwise struggle to give their time for free due to other commitments. Volunteers feel able to support their community and local voluntary organisations by carrying out specific, time-limited tasks.

AN EXAMPLE OF BITE SIZE VOLUNTEERING

Hindmarsh Hall in Northumberland came up with an innovative way to show 'bite-size' opportunities that are available. By producing a flyer with all of the different ways that people could volunteer, they are able to support a wide range of volunteer involvement whilst highlighting that every contribution of time makes a difference.

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Could you be a friend of the Hindmarsh Hall?

Could you...

- Help to run the bar at our next cheese and wine event
- Be one of the 'meet & greet' team for prospective hirers
- Serve tea and coffee at a history talk
- Take minutes at a Trustees meeting
- Offer IT or social media skills
- Help make a grant application
- Offer your DIY skills
- Help to set up the hall ready for an event
- Sell raffle tickets at one of our events
- Do some home baking for events or the produce stall?

Please email..... , talk to one of the existing team or leave your details on the reverse. And encourage your friends too!

***Just a little of your time would mean
an enormous amount!***

Your organisation may be able to come up with a similar invitation to get involved. Other examples might include setting up Facebook posts or events; collecting donations; or running a stall at a community event. Think about any pieces of work you have which could be carried out as a one-off or occasional task.

Once potential volunteers have tried out one task, they may develop a taste for volunteering and become interested in signing up for other roles!

Whilst the introduction of bite size volunteering can make it easy for potential volunteers to get involved, it is important to ensure that you follow your organisation's volunteer recruitment process, as relevant to the role.

See also the info sheet on recruitment and selection.

