

Dundee Volunteers Managers Forum (DVMF)

1. Background

Volunteer Centre Dundee (VCD) has contact with over 290 organisations that offer volunteering opportunities. They range from Advocates to Urban Rangers.

DVMF brings together people working with (or interested in working with) volunteers from a variety of these organisations. It is facilitated by staff from VCD.

DVMF replaces Dundee Volunteer Organisers Group (DVOG), facilitated by Dundee Voluntary Action up to 1997. Membership of DVOG included Social Work, Strathmartine Hospital and Dundee Disabled Children's Association. They were instrumental in setting up the Volunteer Information Point in 1997, taking on key roles in the first management committee.

The Volunteer Information Point renamed and incorporated in 2001 as Volunteer Centre Dundee.

2. Purpose of Dundee Volunteers Managers Forum

- 2.1. Promote the professional role of the volunteers manager in line with the National Occupational Standards for Volunteers Managers
- 2.2. Create a peer support network to volunteers managers
- 2.3. Create an open forum for volunteers managers to discuss issues affecting volunteering
- 2.4. Share information on available training events for volunteer managers and / or volunteers
- 2.5. Share accurate and current information on best practice in volunteering
- 2.6. Contribute to measuring the impact of volunteering in Dundee

3. Membership

Membership of the VMF is open to any paid or unpaid organiser, co-ordinator, administrator or manager of volunteers who supports the definition of Volunteering, Vision and Values below.

4. Definition of Volunteering

Volunteering is the giving of time and energy through a third party, which can bring measurable benefits to the volunteer, individual beneficiaries, groups and organisations, communities, the environment and society at large. It is a choice undertaken of one's own free will, and is not motivated primarily for financial gain or for a wage or salary.

5. Vision for Volunteering

Dundee is a City where volunteering to give your time to benefit others and the wider community is accessible to all, is a rewarding experience and is highly valued as an act of citizenship.

6. Values

- **Inclusiveness.** Everyone has the right to volunteer and should be free to do
- **Diversity.** Everyone in society, regardless of race, sex, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background, formal qualifications or perceived success, has some passion, skill or talent that can make a difference to someone else's life as well as his or her own.
- **Freewill and Choice.** Volunteering is an act of free choice. People choose to act in response to their own personal value and belief systems and there must be no form of compulsion or coercion. It follows that just as a person may decide to give time, he must also be able to refuse to do so.
- **Mutual Benefit.** Volunteering to help others is a two-way process. It is a shared experience in which helpers and those helped all benefit. People get more out than they put in. They offer their time, energy, skills and services without remuneration, but should benefit in other ways, such as the satisfaction of responding to needs, the acquisition of new skills and experience, making social contacts and personal enjoyment and fun.
- **Empowerment.** Volunteering empowers people to fulfil their potential and acquire new skills and knowledge, building their capacity and creativity to contribute to the health and vibrancy of their own communities.
- **Impact.** We believe that volunteering is a powerful driver of change – social, economic, cultural and environmental.
- **Enabling.** We are committed to motivating, inspiring and then enabling diverse groups of people to access Volunteering opportunities.
- **Partnership.** We are committed to working in partnership with others in motivating people to volunteer.

7. Dundee Volunteers Managers Forum Activities

We will achieve our purpose through:

- 7.1. Publicising our meetings and events
- 7.2. Regular open meetings where everyone's input is valued
- 7.3. Conducting our meetings in a welcoming, friendly, informal yet structured manner
- 7.4. Emailing summarised notes from meetings in Volunteer Centre Dundee's next e-bulletin.

8. Why attend?

The DVMF meetings are a good opportunity to meet over a coffee with other managers working with volunteers in a similar setting. You will hear what is going on around Dundee and find out about new developments. At each meeting, a different volunteer manager will be "in the spotlight" to showcase their organisation. From time to time guest speakers will be invited along.

9. How to get involved:

The forum meets every 6-8 weeks – please contact Anne Leslie at Volunteer Centre Dundee. (01382 305705)

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