

# Stockton Volunteering Partnership

## Feedback from the Stockton Volunteering Partnership December 2016

From the feedback the preferred option for the Volunteer Partnership Meetings was:

Quarterly, for a maximum of 2 hours followed by networking time during lunch

### Venues:

- Accessible
- Out of Town
- Good Parking
- Same venue each time means it become habitual for people and maintain attendance
- Prefer VCSE organisations rather than public or private venues (supporting our own)

Date of Next Meeting: **10:00 – 13:00, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, at Teesside Golf Club, Acklam Road, Thornaby, TS17 7JS**, which is a sporting organisation that hosts numerous charity events each year. Go to our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact [anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org](mailto:anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org) to book a place.

### Speakers & Topics:

<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Actions:</i>
Bigger discussion around the development of the website including practical demonstrations on how to use the website	Workshop to be held at Catalyst office to support organisations uploading opportunities. Agenda item on progress and development of Website at the March meeting
Bigger discussion around the quality mark	Research work to be undertaken by Lesley Makin on the options, costs and feasibility of a bespoke version to be presented at the June/July meeting
Funding opportunities	Refer to Catalyst Bulletin (please contact <a href="mailto:fiza.iqbal@catalyststockton.org">fiza.iqbal@catalyststockton.org</a> if you are not on the mailing list. If you would like to access the Grantfinder Database to find new sources of funding please contact <a href="mailto:anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org">anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org</a>
Hear from other/new organisations working in Stockton; sharing expertise and skills; Challenges/Success in recruiting; retaining; supporting; managing volunteers; keeping volunteers active	Opportunities during the networking element of the SVP, and during the information sharing item at the end of each meeting. Potential of a topic in a futures meetings.
'speed dating' networking format – 5 minutes to discuss organisation purpose and promote volunteer roles – to ensure x-matching of volunteers	Over the course of 2017 these issues/ideas will feature in future meetings.
Something about young people – how to engage/recruit etc.	

Safeguarding (policies; practice DBS needs); sharing resources for DBS checks on volunteers	
Understanding the type of volunteering i.e. interns, placements etc	
Speakers from Private and Public sector on volunteering opportunities i.e Chamber of Commerce	

## Volunteer Week

Organisations are invited to a Task and Finish Group to develop and plan Stockton's 2017 Volunteer Month Celebrations on:

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 10:00 at Catalyst House, 27 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS183NJ

Contact [anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org](mailto:anna.jackson@catalyststockton.org) to book a place.

The Task and Finish Group as part of their work will consider the feedback from the SVP Meeting in December i.e:

- Build on the successful events of 2016 i.e Seeing is Believing Tour
- Parade in High Street
- Showcase volunteer opportunities
- Volunteer fate in central Stockton
- Visit village halls

## Blue Sky Thinking

<i>Feedback:</i>	<i>Actions:</i>
Market Place – showcasing organisation	Catalyst Conference facilitates this annually
Start a directory of Organisations in the area; Better links to Stockton Information Directory (SID)	SWAN; SID and a database held by Catalyst contact <a href="mailto:james.hadman@catalyststockton.org">james.hadman@catalyststockton.org</a> for more information on the latter.
Base IT training opportunities for volunteers	As more development work is completed as part of improving the website this may be included. Work on skills share may also support this need.
Celebrations events inclusive not award ceremonies.	To be discussed at future Steering Group Meetings within Catalyst core activity.
Volunteer Vetting process for organisations working with vulnerable clients	
Support for organisations looking for volunteers	

## Website

The website feedback provided a range of both positive and negatives, which the Catalyst team of Anna Jackson and Lesley Makin will consider over the coming weeks and will keep the sector informed of any developments. However whilst there is an acknowledgement that the website has little to offer currently it would be helpful if those organisations needing volunteers advertise their opportunities to test the market further.

Until the website is fully function and all glitches rectified Catalyst will also be offering a workshop to support organisations struggling to up load opportunities and Lesley Makin is happy to visit organisations to offer this same service.

Sample of feedback includes:

- Promote of site via colleges and Universities
- Needs to be higher up the Google search
- No sign posting offer to those wandering volunteers to opportunities
- Co-ordination of 'wandering' volunteers, see Durham Community Action Volunteering Project
- Reminder to refresh opportunities in Sept/Jan/April
- Can this site not link with other similar sites 'centralising' volunteering i.e DO-IT
- Good idea that would-be volunteers don't have to apply to Stockton Volunteers and then the organisation with the opportunity
- Expand links/resources to include policies and other documents relevant to using volunteers i.e. agreements; code of conduct etc.
- Management of site should stay with Catalyst
- Not user friendly for young people – not enough directed at young people
- Should include the law around using volunteers etc.

## Quality Mark

Research work to be undertaken by Lesley Makin on the options, costs and feasibility of a bespoke version, issues and comments from the Stockton Volunteer Partnership will be considered during this process i.e.

- Is such a thing necessary – would it encourage volunteers?
- Potential to ‘cherry-pick’ elements out of the NCVO version for Stockton?
- Simple good practice guide an alternative
- Modular approach – pick and mix for organisations to ensure best fit
- Research into whether would-be volunteers would be influenced by a Quality Mark
- Recognisable logo – same as all other Stockton Volunteering publicity