

Annual Review 2005 - 2006



The number of them using our web site increased by 29% too.

Our new fortnightly drop in sessions attracted 143 potential volunteers and 59 referrers!

Over 10,000 people contacted us about volunteering last year!

There were 760 different volunteering opportunities advertised with us from 553 organisations.

There was a 100% increase in young MV volunteers!

We had 184,000 visits to our website!



We continued to help to change lives through volunteering

Peter is 54 years old and a volunteer companion to people with serious health problems.

"In years gone by I would have been confined to an institution for life. Thankfully due to more enlightened attitudes to mental illness I live very happily in the community. Voluntary work gives me a sense of self worth and greater confidence. I simply enjoy the fact that I am still a useful member of society and can help people less fortunate than myself. This feeling of normality is what every mental health sufferer yearns for and aspires to."

This year we helped 147 people with mental health problems, disabilities, histories of offending or other additional support needs find out how to change their own lives and the lives of others through volunteering. We worked with over 200 referrers from Health and Social Care to Criminal Justice, building their capacity to support their service users directly into volunteering. We delivered pre-volunteering training to young people with mental health problems.

We started a new fortnightly drop in session for people wanting to explore volunteering and that attracted 143 volunteers and 59 referrers.

Our new fortnightly drop in sessions saw us give information and support on volunteering to 143 volunteers and 59 referrers.

We help organisations recruit volunteers to provide services and make a difference

553 organisations advertised 760 different volunteering opportunities online on www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk. Around 29% of all volunteers supporting these organisations have been recruited through the Volunteer Centre. There were a staggering 184,000 visits to our website and we had direct contact with over 10,000 people all of whom were looking for voluntary work.

61 individuals offered specialist skills direct to organisations through our self-advertising service. Our annual volunteer recruitment fair in October was bigger than ever, attracting 112 organisations who took stalls and it was visited by over 1200 potential volunteers on the day.

We help to improve the experience of volunteers

This year 107 people had help from us to improve their practice and skills through our training and seminar programme for volunteer managers. Courses included Core Skills in Volunteers Management, Protection of Children Scotland Act and engaging young people as volunteers.

344 enquirers received one-to-one good practice advice on volunteering issues and to make access to information on good volunteer management practice easier for we launched a national resource on our website.

With support from the City of Edinburgh Council we introduced a subsidy scheme for smaller organisations who wished to go for the Investing in Volunteers standard. 14 organisations were successful in securing a subsidy and started working towards IIV, supported by us.

580 organisations received information on volunteering issues by subscribing to our weekly e-bulletin. 380 potential volunteers signed up for our monthly volunteers e-bulletin which highlights opportunities.

We piloted a project to work with volunteer boards of management to help them improve their key skills in the areas of leadership, governance and decision making. 5 organisations attended training in West Edinburgh and had one to one follow-up and 26 people from 7 management committees attended our first Good2Great event.

We improved volunteering in sport

Working in partnership with SportScotland, our Regional Development Officer for Volunteering in sport, covering Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders, entered into various partnerships with sports organisations to ensure that volunteering is recognised at policy making level and volunteers have a rich and rewarding experience.

Working towards Sports Target 10 which will "by 2007 Scotland will sustain 150,000 volunteers who are contributing to the development and delivery of Scottish Sports" we created a volunteering in sport distribution and communication network targeting relevant information, training, resources and events specifically relating to volunteering in sport. We worked with Edinburgh Leisure and Scottish Universities Sport (SUS) on a volunteering strategy and worked with four other sports representative bodies to produce volunteering procedures and guidelines.



We help to strengthen communities

For the Volunteer Centre a local office in South Edinburgh meant we could target information to reach people at the places where they meet and socialise. 200 local people were made aware of the local and city wide opportunities to volunteer by direct contact with us at the local leisure centres, housing office, local supermarket and even on their way to the bingo! 45 local volunteer involving organisations had regular contact with us and were able to discuss their needs and develop safe and effective policies and procedures. 12 locally based referral agencies were able to have access to an accessible venue and a known person to discuss individual cases with. Around 40 individuals having received personal advice about volunteering in south Edinburgh and were able to start to volunteer.

KM wanted to re-enter the job market but lacked experience and confidence. She started volunteering as a receptionist at a community centre and is now applying for paid jobs. FT had stopped volunteering in North Edinburgh because of the distance he had to travel has now found a local opportunity in a cafe nearer home. CP was finding it difficult to adjust to retirement and is now driving a community transport bus two days a week. SP had a bit of time on her hands and is now involved in her community helping out with gardens and working with children.

The newly updated MV Award was launched and 90 young people received certificates for 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering!

With our help more and more young people got involved with volunteering

Young people and volunteering continued to be a strong focus for us. We held a local launch of the revised MV Awards programme with 90 young people achieving their 50, 100 or 200 hour certificates. Our project of young team volunteering saw the opening by First Minister Jack McConnell of a community flat that 20 young people aged between 15 and 18 from Streetwork in Gilmerton had volunteered their time to redecorate. We recruited 14 young people who sit as a local advisory panel for the Big Lottery. They review funding applications and make recommendations on distribution of over £750,000 of Big Lottery Funds. We undertook a comprehensive survey of volunteer involving organisations on the benefits of and barriers to recruiting young volunteers.

We took the lead on developing the Volunteer Strategy for the city for 2007-2012

The volunteer strategy for Edinburgh will be the first of its kind in Scotland and with funding for a development worker from the City of Edinburgh Council we were able to drive forward the development of the strategy from August 2005. A volunteering working group was convened and an extensive consultation process was undertaken - a challenging task as one of the strengths of volunteering is its diversity and it is hard to think of an area of city life not affected by volunteering.

The strategy consultation process was launched at the city chambers in November 2005 with 100 stake holders attending. Using ideas from 10 workshop groups we devised four surveys and planned 11 focus groups. The two key messages are that; everyone should be positively encouraged to volunteer, and that when people volunteer they should have an excellent experience.

The completed strategy will be launched at an event in December 2006.

We help people towards employment with volunteer mentors

70 job seekers were able to access help and support to get them back to employment from our 33 volunteer employment mentors. Securing SEEDCORN funding from Communities Scotland we extended our employment mentoring service to those people on incapacity benefit in the period up to 31st March 2006.

Spreading the message of "Become Richer Work for Nothing"

We continued to build on our advertising campaign "Become Richer Work for Nothing". As well as signing up for a regular monthly feature in the Evening News we commissioned advertising on Lothian Buses, covering about a third of the fleet, which helped further raise the profile of the Volunteer Centre and Volunteering. We also completely redesigned our website www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk to simplify navigation and bring it into line with our "brand".

And the other things we'd like you to know....

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh works in partnership with all 32 local Volunteer Centres in Scotland and Volunteer Development Scotland

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh works towards the Scottish Executive National Volunteering Strategy launched in June 2004

Volunteer Centre Edinburgh received 18% of the funds to make all this happen from the Scottish Executive Core Grant for Volunteer Centres. Other funders and contractors include: City of Edinburgh Council; BigLottery Fund; Laidlaw Youth Project; Scottish Executive Millennium Volunteers; Robertson Trust; South Edinburgh Social Inclusion Partnership; JobCentrePlus; SportScotland.

Accounts 2005-6

Income: £488,324

Expenditure: £456,575

If you would like a full copy of Volunteer Centre Edinburgh's Audited Accounts please contact us. These figures are extracted from accounts independently audited by Alexander Sloan Chartered Accountants.

Chair Persons Report

This was my first year as Chair and it's been largely great fun! This is thanks to the great humour and commitment of my fellow board members and the high quality dedication of our staff team. Our biggest challenge came when we faced the end of our long standing contract to deliver New Deal mentoring. This not only provided a funding challenge but put extra pressure on the staff team who were wonderful. Now is also a good time to say a big thank you to all the brilliant volunteer mentors who have worked with us over the years. The most exciting development of the year for me was the development of Inspiring Volunteering: A volunteering strategy for Edinburgh. The staff led a highly participative consultation to ensure the strategy is relevant and useful. When it is published the strategy will represent an important and valuable step forward for volunteers and for the organisations who engage volunteers across the city. Meanwhile hundreds of new volunteers continue to come through our physical doors, through the website or sign up at the recruitment fair. It is a good time for volunteering! Harriet Eadie did a sterling job throughout the leading VCE and representing volunteering locally and nationally. Mike Reid our Treasurer kept the finances brilliantly ordered and helped ensure we were ready for the new SORP! We also said goodbye to some long serving members of staff throughout the year; Jude Wilson, Lara Friedman, Lynne Norris and Ollie Dudfield. We wish them well.

Steven Marwick, Chair.

The People

BOARD: Sandra Blake; Gill Hamilton (Chair) to August 2005; Douglas King; Anna Lawn-Thomas; Jane Maryatt; Chris Phillips; Mike Reid (Treasurer); John Richardson, Steven Marwick (Chair) from August 2005.

VOLUNTEERS: Elaine Cunningham; Richard Jamieson; Helen Walker-Boston. Thanks to our 50 dedicated Mentors, and young teams.

STAFF: Harriet Eadie, Director; Lara Celini; Jill Smith; Paul Bennett; Paul Wilson; Mark Steven; Kade Moncrieff; Marion Findlay; Steven Piercy; Sarah Cleary; Lynne Norris; Jude Wilson; Maureen Watson; Ollie Dudfield; Jean Cuthbert; Lara Friedman; Elaine Meakin; Nick Woodhead; Brian Thompson.

Contact Us

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