

Nominations for Paul Bennett Volunteer Manager of the Year Award

Lesley Raper VOCAL

Lesley's journey at VOCAL is remarkable. Starting as a reception volunteer in 2008, she grew the volunteer program and became a paid center coordinator in 2016. She excels as a volunteer manager, organizing social events and providing thorough training sessions. During the pandemic, she led a team of volunteers in making welfare calls to isolated carers. Lesley played a crucial role in rebuilding the reception volunteer team and continues to inspire and empower volunteers. Her journey from volunteer to line manager is truly inspirational, showcasing the transformative power of volunteering in transforming lives.

Paul McInney AdvoCard

Paul has shown exceptional commitment to supporting and empowering volunteers over the past five years. Starting as a volunteer himself, he has trained over 60 volunteers through eight courses, many of whom continue to work with AdvoCard. During the pandemic, Paul's dedication stood out as he kept volunteers engaged and included through virtual training sessions and regular updates. His efforts have fostered a strong sense of community and collaboration among volunteers, contributing to the organization's success. Paul's tireless work in recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers makes him an invaluable asset deserving of recognition and appreciation.

Rosie Hansen St Columba's Hospice Care

Rosie Hansen is an exceptional volunteer manager known for her dedication and understanding of volunteer management. Despite working part-time, Rosie successfully oversees the Iona Café and gift shop at St Columba's Hospice, managing a team of around 80 volunteers across various shifts. She fosters a strong sense of camaraderie among her volunteers and personally knows each of them, showing a genuine interest in their lives. Rosie actively seeks feedback, implements volunteers' ideas, and encourages them to engage with visitors, creating a warm and caring atmosphere. Her contributions, including revamping the café and gift shop, have made a significant positive impact. Rosie's kindness, guidance, and continuous improvements make her a valued leader in the hospice community.

Tracey Stewart CARDS Rowan Alba Ltd

Over 12 years ago, a care assistant at Rowan Alba had a transformative idea. She wanted to provide support and a listening ear to people with alcohol issues in the community. With courage and conviction, Tracey started CARDS, securing a grant and defying skeptics. She sought guidance from Volunteer Edinburgh on recruiting and managing volunteers. Today, CARDS has over 130 clients, 70 volunteers, and a stellar reputation. Many volunteers have found fulfillment and gone on to work in the sector. The professionals who once scoffed now recognize its impact. Tracey's vision



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has given us a brighter future and two staff members have lived experience of addiction.